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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THOUGH the French Emperor's speech to his Legislative Body will appear too late in the week for discussion in our present Number, enough is known of the European situation to supply ample ground for speculation. Things are growing more serious every day. It may not be true that Russia and Austria have made friends again, and come to an agreement to act in concert. The Pope has possibly not yet prepared the Sardinian interdict, nor Sicily broken into insurrection; but nobody can deny that we are on the eve of great and important events, and that England would do well to consider with what sympathies she is likely to view the probable struggles of many different Powers. The Italian situation has reached a point when something must be done to settle matters, for the common, everyday interests of mankind (especially in an age of rapid intercommunication) do not admit of prolonged political uncertainty. And, by the way, this is a kind of offset of some value against the breaking up of old beliefs and associations, the confusion from which would otherwise make life intolerable; it saves us from endless turbulence by making us more dependent on each other for dry goods, hardware, and so forth.

But how are matters to reach the settlement desiderated? that is the point; and one on which his Imperial Majesty's speech may possibly be very vague after all.

The difficulty has got infinitely more complicated since differences arose between Sardinia and France. Before that the Emperor had the Pope and Austria to deal with, and had especially to reconcile the latter to losing the advantages of her Villafranca bargain. Now another awkward bargain is calling for settlement, and he has to satisfy Victor Emmanuel as to his share of the feathers plucked from the Austrian eagle. The King evidently wants his full allowance; and, on the principle that discreditable employments are compensated by good pay, he deserves it; for it was a discreditable thing in the fighting Monarch to barter away his ancient province of Savoy in the manner now generally attributed to him. It takes away all the chivalrous halo which we used to see about his Italian policy; and he is now getting into a position the critical nature of which threatens him with heavy punishment. Suppose his ally throws him over, and leaves him to resist the whole weight of Austria unaided, withdrawing from Italian politics till the time comes

for more successful and profitable interference? The thing is quite possible; nor would it be more discreditable than bargaining with him in the way he has been doing these two years. Nay, there are even signs that the poor King may lose Savoy and the original bargain, too; that he may be sacrificed to the double difficulty of his great friend,—on one hand, of putting things straight with the Potentates; on the other, of withdrawing from the field without having something solid to show to the French people as the result of his intervention.

Suppose for a moment that the Emperor is bent on having Savoy—who is to prevent him? England? Certainly not, with a Government in Power which has just concluded a treaty with him, and which needs the support of a "peace-any-how" party in its domestic measures. The English public would loathe the act, to be sure; and the English public is paying thirty millions per annum to secure the power of preventing injustice by force, no doubt. But it by no means likes war, except for very great causes. And has not the poor King lost by his "family compact" a right to our support? As for the other Powers, though beginning to be awake to the dangers of revived Bonapartism, they are less likely to interfere for saving Savoy than for any purpose. Big Powers do not like little Powers wanting to be big ones; and the King of Sardinia, besides, has been shocking the hereditary principle all along by proposing to let the people of Central Italy choose him for Monarch instead of their old governors.

We fear, then, that Savoy is doomed; an awful lesson to all dwarfs going warring as allies with adventurous giants. But it will be the people of Central Italy that will get most English sympathy, if all this "generous" going to war ends in their having a Bonapartist Regent, as is by no means unlikely. They—poor fellows!—have waited patiently, and believed all that was told them. They have "shut their eyes, and opened their mouths" with wonderful readiness and credulity, and they deserve to swallow something good for their pains. Of real Italian independence they have no chance except in connection with the Sardinian Crown. But what becomes of its independence, with the French flag flying on the Alps? Here is the *crux* for them, that the professed maintainer of their independence has failed as yet to secure the conditions of his own. Nor is the

general revolution open to them, with its possible republics, there being a certain Marshal Vaillant on the look-out against all that.

One turns away with pleasure from the selfishness of foreign politics even to the dulness of home ones. The Budget and Treaty are safe, and the great manufacturers have shown that they can make commercial considerations paramount in Parliament. The House of Commons is now busy with details, and single interests have to do battle the best way they can for fair play. Some interesting points have been discussed in Committee this week; for instance, our colonies, it seems, will get no advantage from the treaty, being unable either to send goods to or receive them from France under the new conditions, though Algeria is to share in all the benefits of the change. This will tend further to weaken the ties which bind us to our colonies, though it is with them that the real bulk of our trade goes on. A curious debate on the manufacture of corks arose, also, early in the week. It seems that, in proportion to our anxiety to get good cork wood, the Spanish Government puts export duties on it, and there is a prospect of our being disabled from the carrying on the finer branches of the trade altogether. No doubt these details seem tedious to many people; but, as they involve the bread of hundreds of families, it would be well if they were more fully considered. Government, on the strength of its majority, resists every amendment; and Lord John Russell even intimates that, the treaty being a whole, provisions in accordance with it must be accepted in the lump. "If any item were rejected," said he the other night, "her Majesty's engagements with the Emperor of the French would not be fulfilled." Assuming this view to be sound, and the Government having (for these purposes) a "working majority," it is difficult to see how improvements in details are to be brought about. We must trust to his Imperial Majesty's goodness to allow a little amelioration here and there, and certainly there is room for it. The exportation of rags from France ought to be facilitated, the provisions respecting coal improved, and the differential shipping duties abolished. As for the silk-weavers and manufacturers of ornamental articles, their case is beyond remedy. We are in a transition to a new state of commercial existence, and that some will suffer in the course of it is, unhappily, but too certain.



SCENE FROM THE NEW OPERA OF "LURLINE."—SEE PAGE 110.



Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A report of the intended departure of Count Walewski for Vienna on a special mission is contradicted.

A long address to the Pope is now being signed at Paris. This address, which was drawn up at a meeting of ecclesiastics and laymen, expresses the opinion that the temporal power of the Papacy can only be saved by a compromise between the two principles now in conflict, which act would tend to effect a reconciliation between the Roman Church and the principles of modern society.

SAVOY AND SWITZERLAND.

Count Cavour's special organ at Turin (*the Opinione*), which, but a few days ago, denied any intention on the part of the Sardinian Government to cede Savoy to France, now turns round, and pretends that such a bargain falls in with the great work of national restoration to be carried out in Europe; and that, besides, France has a good and substantial claim to receive a French province back from Sardinia for having Italian provinces added to that monarchy.

Turning to Savoy itself, we find that, in addition to the three parties already in existence—one working for Sardinia, one for France, and one for Switzerland—a fourth has now entered the field, with the words "The independence of Savoy" written on its banner. A pamphlet lately published at Chambéry contains an energetic protest against cutting Savoy into two pieces; and, as the only means of evading such a necessity, it recommends that Europe recognise the independence and neutrality of the whole of Savoy, the Savoyards offering in return absolute free trade, and perfect freedom from military pursuits. The Swiss, in the meantime, continue to display great diplomatic activity in connection with this question. They have just sent a special envoy to their representative in Paris with new instructions.

ITALY.

SARDINIA.

The King is still at Milan, where he is everywhere attended by the plaudits of the people. The Milanese clergy waited upon him lately with a loyal address, in his reply to which his Majesty said:—"At the moment when political parties are endeavouring to disturb consciences under the pretence that the temporal power of the Pope is endangered, I am pleased to receive the expression of the sentiments of the Milanese, which are just and prudent. Worthy of their ancient reputation, the clergy agree with me in acknowledging that it is of high importance that the spiritual authority should not interfere in political questions."

The Electoral Assemblies are convoked for the 25th of March, and Parliament is to meet on the 2nd of April. Thirty-two new Senators are appointed by decree.

The King has recalled such of the reserves in Lombardy as have already served their time in the Austrian service. The reorganisation of the whole Sardinian army is talked of. It is to consist of four separate corps, every one of 40,000 men, thus raising them to the large number of 160,000 men; which of course embraces not merely the troops drawn from the original possessions of the house of Savoy and from Lombardy, but also in anticipation of the annexation of the Emilia contingent, as is shown by General Fant's name being given as the future commander of one of these separate corps.

NAPLES.

The King of Naples has sent word to all his officers on leave that on or before the 1st instant they must have rejoined their regiments. At the same time the Neapolitan National Guard is again to be called upon to do service. This National Guard seems to be calculated upon for quelling insurrections in the interior, there being no doubt that great agitation prevails in Sicily and other provinces.

ROME.

The following telegram from Rome is dated Feb. 21:—"An extraordinary commission of ten Cardinals has been appointed to deliberate upon a reply to M. Thouvenel's despatch. Letters affirm that the Pope has received a communication from the King of Sardinia, demonstrating the impossibility of the retention of the Umbrian Marches by the Holy See, and proposing a treaty for their cession. The negative reply of his Holiness was couched in the strongest terms. The Pope declares himself ready to meet all emergencies."

According to the *Unione Liberale* there exists a secret treaty between Austria, the Papal States, and Naples, by which they are bound not to agree to any arrangement involving a limitation of the territory of the Papal States or an aggrandisement of Sardinia.

PRUSSIA.

A letter from Berlin, dated February 21, after alluding to various rumours of a rapprochement between Austria and Prussia, says:—

At Vienna, as well as at Berlin, nothing will be done until the state of affairs of Europe is clearly defined, and this must shortly take place, on account of three questions which must soon be resolved—the result of the debates in the English Parliament; the issue of the negotiations between France and Austria concerning Venice, and the war which may ensue therefrom; and, finally, the annexation of Savoy to France. When the hour of decision shall have struck, Prussia may, probably, have more difficulties to overcome than last year, for it may be necessary to make an offensive war. Now it would be necessary to induce the German States to take the field, while last year Prussia had only to ask them to follow her.

The *Morning Chronicle* launched a rumour of another alliance—offensive and defensive—between Austria and Russia. It is denied from all quarters; but it is said that Austria has intimated that it will no longer oppose the Russian policy in Turkey.

DENMARK.

A new Ministry has been formed as follows:—President of the Council, and *ad interim* Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Hall; Minister for Public Worship, and *ad interim* Minister of the Interior, Bishop Monrad; Minister of Justice, M. Casse; Minister of War, M. Thestrup; Minister of Marine, M. Bille; Minister for Schleswig, M. Wolfhagen; Minister for Holstein, M. Rædelof.

A demand of the Schleswig Diet for liberty of the press has been met by the Danish Government Commissioner with a point blank refusal.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Prince Michael Obrenowitch, son of Prince Milosch, the present ruler of Serbia, who is reported to be seriously ill, has demanded from the Sultan that his Highness should recognise him as the successor of his father—which amounts to nothing less than that the Sultan should practically submit to that introduction of hereditary government in Serbia which he has always repudiated. This demand, says a telegraphic report from Marcellus, is supported by the Russian Government. In case of refusal the Sultan is threatened with a rising of the whole Slavonian element in his empire, which is not confined to Serbia, but fills Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Montenegro, and even stretches far into Bulgaria and Macedonia. A new Ministry has been formed in Serbia.

The Pacha of Egypt is said to have written to the Sultan, demanding that some resolution might at last be come to with regard to the Suez Canal project.

The Sultan is reported to have ordered a loan of £6,000,000 to be negotiated in London.

A large fire broke out a few days since at the Dardanelles, and destroyed nearly the whole of the shipping quarter of the town. About 150 houses were burnt to the ground.

The typhus fever raging among the fugitive Circassians in Constantinople is carrying off about 100 persons daily.

A conspiracy against Prince Daniel has been discovered in Montenegro, the principal participants in which have received sentence of death.

AMERICA.

From Washington we learn that "a resolution has been adopted calling for a letter to the French Emperor on the subject of com-

mercial relations and free trade." The bill abolishing the franking privilege has been passed, and referred to a select committee.

The troops in Utah were under orders to leave Salt Lake in April. It was thought their destination would be the Rio Grande.

The American steamer *Ranchero* was fired into thirty miles above Brownsville by Mexicans bearing the Mexican flag. Several shots passed through the steamer. Subsequently the Mexicans fired upon Colonel Ford's forces from the Mexican side of the river, dangerously wounding one man. Colonel Ford returned the fire and crossed the river in pursuit of the enemy.

The accounts from Mexico exhibit a frightful state of anarchy in that country. Miramon was expected to reach Vera Cruz on the 1st of March. The city was well fortified. Miramon was without artillery. The entire foreign population of Chihuahua had been forced to quit the country. The Americans left a million dollars' worth of property behind. A desperate battle had been fought, in which the Liberals suffered a disastrous defeat.

The English Chargé d'Affaires had presented an ultimatum to the Mexican Government, demanding payment of all the British claims within eight days.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The chief Praetorius has been elected President of the Orange State, an election which the home Government may not sanction.

Sir George Grey was still anxiously looked for at the Cape.

The vine disease was spreading rapidly. A commission had been appointed to trace its progress.

At Natal Mr. Justice Phillips had been suspended from his office by Governor Scott. A criminal had been pardoned by the Governor without consulting the Judge. The latter, therefore, made some remarks on the bench which the Governor thought offensive. Several public meetings had been held in favour of Mr. Phillips.

News had been received of the Livingstone expedition to the Zambesi down to the 12th of December, when it was at the mouth of the Kongone. The party had all suffered from fever, but were recovering. The little steam-launch was useless. Mrs. Livingstone was to rejoin her husband at the Zambesi.

INDIA.

THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.

The preparations for the Chinese expedition advance, though at a leisurely pace. The volunteering has been very general throughout the native army—a good sign, if only because it proves that the Sikhs have no idea that another insurrection is at hand. The Government adheres decidedly to its plan of individual volunteering, and every Punjaabee and sepooy is required to sign a declaration that he goes of his own free will. Two of the divisional commands have been assigned to Sir R. Napier and Sir J. Mitchell—the former a dashing, clever soldier, distinguished in the Gwalior campaign against Tantia Topee, the latter General-in-Chief in the great hunt after the same leader. Both are thoroughly experienced in Asiatic warfare, and awake to those difficulties of transport and commissariat which in China, as in Central India, will impede us far more than the enemy. It was reported that General Sir W. R. Mansfield was to go in command of the force instead of Sir Hope Grant.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

A financial improvement is reported. "The loan is at last drawing rapidly, so rapidly that the five millions wanted will probably be filled in a month, and the loan closed. . . . A bill increasing the duty on country rum from one rupee to three rupees (6s.) a gallon has been introduced into the Legislative Council. A very heavy addition is also to be made to the tax on 'gunja' (in Arabic and *Monte Christo* 'haschich'), the extract of hemp, with which some classes of our population madden themselves. The drug is the most fatal stimulant used by man, destroying gradually the reasoning powers. It gives men, however, a momentary courage, and the fighting classes all keep it. Government is anxious to suppress it, as men under its influence have a penchant for committing murder."

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S PROGRESS.

On the 24th of January the Governor-General was "still marching to Lahore, and as he and his camp, when last heard of, were in the valley of the Markhonda, they are not likely to emerge for some days. An army cannot cross that belt of sand, ravines, broken bridges, and pulverised roads at a quicker rate than three miles a day. A census has just been taken of the camp, and the civil camp alone is found to contain 15,000 men. The immense military escort collected for the Oude demonstration does not, however, travel northward. A mere guard, according to Indian ideas, comprising a Queen's regiment, a native regiment, and the body guard—a full regiment—brings the camp, however, up to 20,000 men."

JUNG BAHADOOR.

A paper of some importance has been published, semi-officially, in Oode. It is written by the native Governor of Bootwul, the fortress on the Tirthoot frontier in which the Begum has been living, and professes to describe the policy of the Court of Nepal throughout the mutinies. According to the writer the Nepalese sympathised passionately with the mutineers. They considered the cause of Hindooism involved, and from May to November, 1857, threatened repeatedly to descend into the plains. Nothing but Jung Bahadoor's iron severity restrained them from invasion, and when in November he intimated his intention of assisting the British the zemindars were so irritated that they impressed the lowest rabble they could find as recruits. On the return of these rascals, rich for life with the plunder of Goruckpore, the popular feeling rose to its height; Jung Bahadoor was threatened with death, and was compelled to imprison some of the leading conspirators in Benares. At the same time he himself, bitterly irritated by the non-removal of Colonel Ramsay, allowed the border zemindars to make incursions on their own account, but hanged any Goorkha who talked too freely of invading his ally. When the defeated mutineers entered Nepal they were nearly 30,000 strong, and immensely wealthy. They declared that the British were breaking caste throughout the whole districts by force, and again Jung was threatened by the half-maddened Nepalese. He had, however, recovered his temper, issued a proclamation threatening all enemies of the British with instant death, and at last, after months of delay, contrived to expel the intruders. The writer adds one very pregnant fact. Every one in India at all familiar with native intrigues had been wondering all through the mutinies at the non-appearance of Rane Chunda Kour, Runjeet Singh's favourite, and mother of Dhuleep Singh. It was known that she was living at Katmandoo, and known, too, that she alone possessed real influence over the Sikh mind. Lord Dalhousie always said her arrest was worth a campaign, and her appearance in the Punjab would have been a frightful calamity. Jung knew that as well as the British, and all through the mutinies he had her whereabouts reported direct to himself twice a day—a service which, whatever its motive, it would be difficult to over-estimate. Jung is Regent of Nepal, his position corresponding with that of the Duke of Somerset in the reign of Edward VI.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

THE Chinese Government has given the coup de grace to the supposition that it means to ignore the American treaty which was ratified at Peh-tang. Not content with allowing that treaty to come in force, and opening the new ports of Swatow and Taiwan, it has extended the provisions of the American treaty to the English and other treaty powers. He (the Imperial Commissioner) has been authorised by the Emperor to direct that the tonnage dues at the various open ports be levied at the reduced rate of four mace per ton, as secured by the new American treaty; and has even given directions for the granting drawbacks for the extra mace which may have been paid by British and other ships since the 24th of November, when the new treaty came in force.

There was a report among the Chinese that Hwashana, one of the Imperial Commissioners who signed Lord Elgin's treaty, had been put to death, but it has not been authenticated.

In the Shanghai papers there appears correspondence complaining of young foreigners causing annoyance and threatening to raise mobs

among the Chinese, by breaking their lanterns, and otherwise indulging in "larks," which the Chinese cannot appreciate, and which, if persisted in, will soon make us as unpopular in Shanghai and in Japan as we ever were in Canton.

Affairs in Japan appear to remain unchanged, and it is confidently hoped that the firm attitude assumed by Mr. Consul-General Alcock will have the effect both of reassuring the Japanese Government, and of checking the improprieties of the British residents who have behaved in such a manner as to cause the partial stoppage of trade. It is difficult to obtain information as to what is going on in the Japanese ports, but there appears to be very good grounds for the warnings held out by Mr. Oliphant and others against the expectation of any great and sudden extension of British trade from the opening of these ports. When first opened there was a number of curious articles presented in the market, which gave something to do; and the purchase of gold coins afforded a most profitable trade; but the real commercial question with regard to Japan—viz., how far it is willing to take our manufactures and can give us raw produce—yet remains to be solved.

The question as to how far Japan may be able to supply us with coal is about to be investigated by Lieutenant Malcolm, R.E., who has left Shanghai for Nagasaki for that purpose.

The Minister of the United States at Jeddo has officially communicated that he has obtained a pledge from the Japanese Government that the treaty of Jeddo will be carried out in all its integrity, and that, more particularly, Japanese produce may be freely purchased, and all Japanese articles may be exported without limit, except rice, wheat, copper coin, and uncoined Japanese gold and silver. The quarter to be occupied by foreigners will also be settled immediately.

THE WAR IN MOROCCO.

The negotiations for peace between the Spanish and the Moors have failed. General O'Donnell's conditions were, we are told, the possession of all the territory conquered, including Tetuan. An indemnity of 200,000,000 reals. An engagement to respect the Catholic religion, and grant commercial stipulations favourable to Spain. On the 22nd ult. two Moorish deputies arrived at the camp of Marshal O'Donnell, to propose an interview between the Marshal on the part of Spain, and Muley Abbas and the Minister Katib, on the part of Morocco, to discuss these conditions—severe almost to impertinence. This interview took place on the road to Tangiers. The first point discussed was the occupation of Tetuan by the Spaniards, which was obstinately objected to by the Moors; whereupon Marshal O'Donnell was on the point of breaking up the conference; but at the request of Muley Abbas it was continued, without, however, producing any result. The Moors asked for a further delay, which was refused by Marshal O'Donnell, who declared the truce to be terminated. The Marshal returned to Tetuan, and immediately sent for the Commander of the Spanish naval force, in order to concert with him further active operations. The Spanish squadron arrived, and straightway bombarded Larache and Arcilla, causing great destruction in those two places. Some of the Spanish vessels were slightly damaged. The Spanish loss was one man killed, according to Madrid accounts. The Spanish squadron was then compelled by bad weather to put back to Algiers.

The Madrid journals assert that the Emperor of Morocco is anxious for peace on account of the great demoralisation of his army, and of the intrigues of the pretenders to the throne.

Cheap "pleasure excursions" to Tetuan from Madrid and other places are advertised by railway and steam-boat companies.

The Madrid *Gazette* states that as General Buceta, Governor of Melilla, in making the recent sortie from that place against the Moors, violated orders given him by the General-in-Chief, he was to be placed under arrest and brought to trial. In the sortie the Spaniards were surrounded by the Moors, and had, not 182 men killed and wounded, as stated by telegraph, but 200.

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

The Russian Ambassador at Turin has, in the name of his Government, represented to Count Cavour the heavy responsibility which would fall upon Sardinia if, at the very moment when the European Powers are endeavouring to make the state of affairs less threatening, she were to take steps for the annexation of Central Italy to Piedmont. It is said that, in consequence of these representations, and following the advice of France, all projects in reference to Central Italy are to be suspended for the present.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* writes:—

"The fact of something positive by way of answer to the repeated inquiries of Piedmont as to her position in Italy being sent on Friday last is, I believe, beyond doubt. Tuscany, most people agree, is not to be annexed to Piedmont; but the Tuscan people may choose whom they please as their ruler, with the exception (which, doubtless, is very disinterested on the part of France) of Prince Napoleon—I mean the son-in-law of King Victor Emmanuel, and, I believe, the Prince of Carignan. Modena and Parma will, should they desire it, be annexed to Piedmont. The Romagna, also, if it suits them (because, of course, absolute freedom of choice is allowed), may, as I have said, be governed by a vicar from the family of the King of Sardinia; and the Romagna will have to pay a certain yearly tribute to the Pope as suzerain, and which may be fixed at 3,000,000 francs, more or less, pretty much as the Moldo-Wallachians do to the Sultan. It is said that the King of Sardinia has accepted this proposal for 'the settlement of the Italian question,' and that Piedmontese troops will soon occupy the Romagna."

The *Débats* states that private information agrees with the accounts received by the *Indépendance Belge* respecting a proposal by France that Parma and Modena be annexed at once to Piedmont, and Tuscany be called upon to elect a new Sovereign—France supporting the claims of the Duke of Genoa, a child five years old, nephew of King Victor Emmanuel.

The *Constitutionnel* publishes a despatch of M. Thouvenel, dated the 31st of January last, which was addressed to the French Ambassador at Vienna, to be communicated to Count Rechberg. The document may be characterised as an argumentative and even declamatory attempt of the French Government to convince the Emperor of Austria that the Emperor of France has acted in good faith, that he went to war with no other object than to remove a constant source of rivalry between the two empires, and that the deviations from the Villafranca stipulations that are now visible in the policy of France are not of Louis Napoleon's making, and were not even foreseen by him. M. Thouvenel warmly entreats the Emperor of Austria to adopt the English propositions as the only way out of the difficulties of the situation. He strengthens this appeal by pointing to the danger to all monarchical Governments if nothing soon be done for the settlement of the Italian question. The people of Central Italy, he intimates, are not totally unfaithful that they once have lived under Republican forms of government, and may gradually find out that, in preserving the present extraordinary *status quo* as long as possible, and in continuing to take exercise in self-government, they have the simplest means at hand to restore that form of government.

The Government of Tuscany has fixed the form of the oath to be taken by the National Guard as follows:—"I swear to be faithful to the King and to his Royal successors, loyally to observe the statute (Constitution) and other laws of the State, and to fulfil all my duties with the sole view of the inseparable welfare of the King and country."

FOUNDERING OF ANOTHER STEAMER AND LOSS OF FOURTEEN LIVES.—A telegraphic despatch reports that the *Pomona*, a screw-steamer, from Odessa for London, laden with wheat, foundered on Thursday morning, during a heavy gale of wind. The passengers and eleven of the crew were saved; the remainder, fourteen in number, were drowned. She left Malta the previous day. The *Pomona* was a new iron steamer, about 700 tons burden, and was chartered by Messrs. Robinson, of Mark-lane, charterers of the screw-steamer *Outline*, which vessel was in collision on Sunday morning last in the Channel, and immediately sank, with many lives. The loss of the *Pomona* and cargo is roughly calculated at upwards of £40,000.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS.

SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR.

The Emperor commences by saying that whereas at the commencement of last Session he had to warn them against exaggerated apprehensions of a probable war, he has now to allay similar disquiet arising out of the peace itself. This peace has been the object of his sincere desire, and he will neglect nothing to maintain it. He can only congratulate himself on his friendly relations with all the European Powers, the extreme East being the only part of the globe where his armies are engaged. After alluding to the war in China, his Majesty observes that he hopes the difficulties in Europe are drawing to a close, and that Italy is about to be constituted free. Without dwelling upon the negotiations which have been protracted through so many months he will proceed to speak of a few principal points. The Emperor continues:—

The predominating thought of the treaty of Villafranca was to obtain the almost complete independence of Venetia in return for the restoration of the Archdukes. This transaction having failed, notwithstanding my most earnest endeavours, I have had to express my regrets upon that subject, both at Vienna and at Turin, for the situation, by being prolonged, threatened to remain without issue. Whilst it was the object of honourable explanations between my Government and that of Austria, it led England, Prussia, and Russia to take measures which in their entirety proved clearly the desire of the great Powers to reconcile all interests. In order to second this desire, it was necessary for France to present a plan the adoption of which by Europe seemed most probable. Guaranteeing Italy against foreign intervention by my army, I had the right to lay down the limits of that guarantee. Thus I have not hesitated to declare to the King of Sardinia that, while I left him full liberty of action, I could not follow him in a policy which had the disadvantage of appearing in the eyes of Europe to be based on a desire to absorb all the States of Italy, and which threatened to give rise to new conflagrations. I counselled him to respond favourably to the wishes of the provinces which offered themselves to him, but to maintain the autonomy of Tuscany, and to respect in principle the rights of the Holy See. Although this arrangement might not satisfy all the world, it had the advantage of reserving principles and calming apprehensions, and it made of Piedmont a kingdom of more than nine millions of men. In the presence of this transformation of Northern Italy, which gives to a powerful State all the passages of the Alps, it was my duty, for the safety of my frontier, to claim the French side of the mountains. This claim of a territory of slight extent contained nothing which ought to alarm Europe, or give a denial to the policy of disinterestedness which I had more than once proclaimed; for France does not wish to proceed to this aggrandisement, however feeble it may be, either by military occupation or by provoked insurrection, or underhand manoeuvres, but by exposing the question frankly to the great Powers. They will doubtless comprehend in their equity, as France certainly would be either of them in similar circumstances, that the important territorial rearrangement which has taken place gives us the right to a guarantee indicated by Nature herself.

The Emperor then proceeds to treat of the question of the Romagna, and observes that there is reason to hope for an early solution of that difficulty.

The Government (he then says) is about to submit measures with the object of facilitating production, improving the condition of those who labour, and multiplying the commercial relations of the country. He has taken upon himself the responsibility of entering into a treaty of commerce with England. His Majesty enlarges upon the advantages which this grand measure will bring to both countries, and points out that it has but advanced the time of modifications which each country would in the course of years have found it necessary to adopt, and given to indispensable reforms the character of reciprocal concessions destined to fortify the alliance of the two great peoples. His Majesty appeals to them for energetic measures in the adoption of laws which shall facilitate the practical working of the treaty. Providence, which so visibly protected France during the war, will not fail her in this pacific enterprise. France desires only to develop in peace, in plenitude of her independence, the immense resources which Heaven has given her, acknowledging the truth so consoling to humanity—viz., that the richer and more prosperous one country is the more she contributes to the riches and prosperity of others.

TERRIFIC GALES—MARITIME DISASTERS.

THE violent winds which prevailed on Tuesday have occasioned no small amount of mischief. The roads and footways in and near London were literally strewn with pieces of chimney-pots, bricks, tiles, and general debris; while in many instances heavy and lofty stacks of chimneys were dashed through roofs and thence to the rooms beneath. In the districts of Sydenham, Dulwich, and Peckham, but especially the former, number of buildings were partially unroofed. Two men were blown into the Surrey Canal and drowned. This gale was the severest trial which the Crystal Palace has yet undergone, but beyond a few loose squares of glass no material damage has been done.

On the river the confusion that existed, particularly in the Upper and Lower Pools, is indescribable. A tier of vessels broke adrift and drifted athwart another tier, causing considerable damage to spars, bulwarks, and rigging; and several collisions took place, by which a vast amount of damage was occasioned. A laden lug-boat was sunk off Shadwell. Not only the river steam boats but the large Continental, Scotch, and Irish steam-vessels had great difficulty in making headway against the storm, notwithstanding that the flood tide was in their favour.

The gale was very destructive in the provinces.

From Derby we hear that about three o'clock the fine tower of the parish church of St. Alkmund was seen to wave to and fro, and precautions were immediately taken to block up all the streets which had a thoroughfare past the church. About four o'clock the top of the spire, four yards in length, fell with a tremendous crash. It penetrated the high-pitched roof of the nave, and fell into the body of the church.

A large steamer was lost off St. David's Head on Tuesday morning. The unfortunate vessel was seen about eight o'clock between the South Bishop and Ramsay Island driven before the gale, and to all appearance under no command. She struck on the rocks, and parted in three compartments. About thirty persons were seen on board, including some six soldiers, and one woman with four little children, which were seen clinging to her when last observed. Three of the unfortunate creatures on board each took a life-buoy and jumped into the sea. Two of them were seen to sink very soon. The other man was assisted by some spars, and kept on the water for about an hour, but ultimately perished. An attempt was made to throw a rope on shore, but to no purpose, the sea was running so high. With the exception of the three sufferers before mentioned, all on board disappeared with the vessel.

The barque *Robert Mills* was wrecked at Anglesea on Monday night. The crew were saved. The *Vigie de Dieppe* states that the fishermen of that port and the inhabitants along the coast are constantly finding articles proceeding from wrecks. At Penley, near Dieppe, a buoy marked Melbourne-Hamburg, and a compass without any mark, were found on the beach. At Menaval, near Tréport, a plank marked Solon, and many other things apparently belonging to the same vessel, were picked up.

A telegraphic despatch reports that the *Pomona*, a screw-steamer, from Odessa for London, laden with wheat, foundered on Thursday week, during a heavy gale of wind. The passengers and eleven of the crew were saved; the remainder, fourteen in number, were drowned. She left Malta the previous day. The *Pomona* was a new iron steamer, about 700 tons burden, and was chartered by Messrs. Robinson, of Mark-lane, charterers of the screw-steamer *Outline*, which vessel was in collision on Sunday morning last in the Channel, and immediately sank with many lives. The loss of the *Pomona* and cargo is roughly calculated at upwards of £40,000.

The Valery Company's steamer *Louise* foundered on the 23rd ult. on her voyage to Bastia and thence to Marseilles, having run against the advanced pier of Bastia. A despatch received by the underwriters states that fifty persons, including the captain, were drowned. The number of passengers on board was eighty-four.

IRELAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE POPE.—Dr. Cullen announces in the Irish papers that he has sent £1000 (Irish subscriptions) to the Pope. He writes to the committee:—"I inclose, for your perusal, a letter received this morning from Cardinal Barnabo, in which his Eminence assures me that his Holiness is most gratified by the movement so providentially excited in Ireland, and by the efforts which the people here are making to assist the Holy See in its difficulties. I trust that, under your care, the collection of Sunday will prove how little importance the Catholics of Dublin attach to the authority of Lord John Russell, who, in a despatch recently published, has had the hardihood to charge the Government of his Holiness Pius IX. with ignorance, corruption, and despotism. Let Lord Russell support rebellion against a lawful Sovereign, and recommend the spoliation of the Church of God, we shall make every exertion to maintain just rights and the legitimate authority of the Pontiff, so necessary for the welfare of religion and of society." It is thought that the Archbishop's appeal on the Pope's behalf will be responded to by a much larger subscription than was at first anticipated.

ALLEGED SHEEP-KILLING IN DONEGAL.—The stories to this effect are discovered to be calumnies. An investigation has been held, and the following is a copy of the decision adopted by the magistrates, viz.:—"The bench are unanimously of opinion that no sheep belonging to Mr. Adair was maliciously injured or done away with. Sixty-three sheep have been found dead from the inclemency of the weather, as there was no mark of injury on them."

THE PROVINCES.

SHOCKING COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—Three men were killed on Thursday week at the Chidley Colliery, the property of Mr. R. Bewick, Tunstall. They were descending the pit, when the rope to which the cage was suspended broke, and they were precipitated to the bottom and killed. The bodies were got out at about four in the afternoon, and the reports as to the cause of the accident are various.

GREAT TURN-OUT OF COLLIERIES AT ST. HELEN'S, LANCASHIRE.—The colliers employed at the mines in this district have struck, and the movement is assuming a very formidable character. Up to the end of last week the number out on strike was estimated at about 3000; and this number has since been increased by between 250 and 300 more, who in a body left the Cropper's-hill Colliery. The expressed determination of the turn-outs continues to be that they will not yield until they obtain an advance of 10 per cent on the present wages. Some hundreds of the county constabulary—draughted from the Liverpool, Manchester, and other districts—have been stationed in the neighbourhood of the mines, to be ready to act in case of an outbreak.

MAKING THE MOST OF A MISFORTUNE.—At a meeting of the Gloucester Town Council last week the following story was told:—The wife of a person resident of the city having lately died, he determined to have her interred at the cemetery. During the funeral ceremony the eye of the mourner seems to have lighted upon the sand which had been removed from the grave, and as it was of good quality he at once resolved to possess himself of a quantity of it. Conceiving, we suppose, that he had acquired a right to the freehold by payment of the burial fees, he took a cart to the cemetery for the sand, and on the keeper interposing to prevent the desecration he threatened him with the penalties of the law. The keeper was somewhat frightened, and allowed one cartload of the soil to be removed; but by this time the extraordinary claim had been communicated to the authorities, who immediately put a stop to the proceeding.

ANOTHER CLERGYMAN IN DISGRACE.—The Rev. E. F. Ribbens, Master of the Grammar School and Chaplain of the Union Workhouse at Leek, Robert Sievier, and Eliza De Berrière were charged before the magistrates at Leek on Saturday with conspiring to obtain possession of the child of Hannah Mellor, and to cause the child by unlawful means (namely, by clandestinely leaving it at the Leek Union Workhouse) to become chargeable to the common fund of the union. From the evidence it appeared that the rev. gentleman was the father of the child, and several letters of a very abominable character, written by him, were read. The child was left at the workhouse-door, and the rev. gentleman was stated to have been the person who left it. At the close of the evidence the Bench decided that the evidence was insufficient against Eliza De Berrière; but, as regarded the other two, they would be remanded on their own recognisances, in order that the Poor-law Board in London, who were the real prosecutors, might be consulted.

THE MURDER AT BOLTON-UPON-DEARNE.—About three years ago an aged couple were atrociously murdered in the secluded village of Bolton-upon-Deane. On the night of the 4th of December, 1856, Luke White, who was the village postmaster, and kept a small druggist's shop, and was a local preacher, while apparently engaged in preparing his sermon for the following Sunday, heard some one come to his shop door, and on going to see what was wanted he was knocked down and murdered. His wife appeared, while going along the passage leading from the house into the shop to see what was the matter, to have been met and also murdered. No traces of robbery were visible, and the affair was enshrouded in mystery. Large rewards were offered, but not the slightest clue could be found to the perpetrators of the crime, and a Coroner's jury, after sitting for a considerable time, was obliged to return an open verdict. The village constable, one White, was popularly suspected, but this suspicion has now been removed. A convict at Portsmouth is said to have denounced the murderers. He was a hawker, and he says he was in the house when the murder was committed, though he had no part in it.

A FOOLISH TRICK.—Saturday was a day of amusement to the people of Warrington, from the fact that a considerable number of the tradesmen of the town were hoaxed at the expense of the Rector of the parish. Some time during the week letters purporting to have emanated from the rectory were sent by post to butchers, bakers, fishmongers, dealers in game, fruiterers, wine and spirit merchants, tailors, drapers, cabinet-makers, coopers, coal agents, brickmakers, and even sweeps. Something was ordered from every one of the above. Eleven o'clock in the forenoon was the time appointed for the parties to be at the rectory, and at that hour, and a little before and after, might be seen persons wending their way, loaded with legs of mutton, rounds of beef, two truckloads of bread (currant and plain), several kinds of fish, hares and rabbits, bundles of cloth, silk, and stuffs, rolls of ribbon, bottles of wine and spirits, grapes and other descriptions of fruit, one cartload of bricks, two cartloads of coal, mahogany tables, tubs and buckets, two postchaises (ordered to take the Rector and his family to the railway station), and, last but not least, chimney-sweeping machines. As may be anticipated, the domestics at the rectory thought the people had gone mad. The first-comers were told they were mistaken, and they soon found out that they had been duped as they witnessed the other arrivals. The assembly was so great as to stamp it as one of the most remarkable of the dupe kind ever beheld.

A RICH AGRICULTURAL LABOURER STARVED TO DEATH.—William Silk, an agricultural labourer, about thirty-eight years of age, was found dead of starvation near Eastmeon, in Sussex, last week. From the evidence adduced at an inquest it appears that Silk lived on raw swedes, dry bread, and raw onions for weeks together, and has been known to go three weeks or a month without purchasing any animal food, butter, or cheese. The result was that, though he lost his life, he had saved nearly £200, though he was only in the receipt of 8s. per week. Verdict of jury—"Died from starvation."

SHOCKING ATTEMPT TO MURDER A WIFE.—A man named Jesse Harding, of Winslow, Bucks, came home between two and three o'clock in the morning one day last week and commenced beating his wife with a strap-buckle. He then belaboured her with his fist, and, taking up a run, shot her in the breast. After this he beat her about the head so severely with the gunstock that it broke from the barrel. The unhappy woman, however, is still living. Harding was apprehended, and the declaration of the poor woman, who was believed to be dying, was taken before P. Dauncey and E. W. Lowndes, Esqrs., in the presence of the prisoner. It was to the effect above stated. On the prisoner asking her "whether he did it on purpose," she replied "Yes," and shook hands with him. He was remanded to await the recovery or death of his victim.

COMMISSIONS IN THE CAVALRY.—The prices of commissions in the cavalry are, by a recent order from the Horse Guards, assimilated to those current in the infantry. They will be in future—Colonel, £1500, instead of £2075; Major, £3200, instead of £4375; Captain, £1800, instead of £2225; Lieutenant, £700, instead of £1190; Cornet, £450, instead of £810. The difference in value between the late and proposed regulation price of a cavalry commission will be paid to the retiring officer from the reserve fund at the disposal of the Secretary of State for War. The price which an officer will pay on promotion, by purchase, to the higher ranks will be—Major to be Lieutenant-Colonel, £1300, instead of £1600; Captain to be Major, £1400, instead of £1850; Lieutenant to be Captain, £1100, instead of £2205; Cornet to be Lieutenant, £250, instead of £350.

SENATORIAL DIFFICULTIES IN AMERICA.—The Brooks outrage was threatened to be repeated in Washington lately. Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania, was assaulted by Mr. Edmondson, of Virginia, because he had spoken slightly in debate of the latter's prowess in the Brown war; but, owing to the interference of Vice-President Breckenridge and Mr. Senator Clingman, Mr. Edmondson did no more than knock off Mr. Hickman's hat. Edmondson was one of the fellows who accompanied Brooks when he assaulted Mr. Sumner, and stood ready to shoot or stab any man who should have interfered to prevent the outrage. He appears desirous to keep his hand in.

THE TREATY OF COMMERCE WITH FRANCE.

The following is an additional article to the Treaty of Commerce concluded at Paris on the 23rd of January, 1860, between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, signed at Paris on the 25th of February, 1860, and ratifications exchanged at Paris on the 28th of February, 1860:—

"By article 8 of the Treaty of Commerce between her Majesty the Queen of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and his Majesty the Emperor of the French, signed at Paris on the 23rd of January last, her Britannic Majesty undertook to recommend to Parliament the admission into the United Kingdom of brandies and spirits imported from France at a duty exactly equal to the excise duty levied upon home-made spirits, with the addition of a surtax of 2d. a gallon, which would make the actual duty payable on French brandies and spirits 8s. 2d. a gallon. Since the ratification of the said treaty the Government of her Britannic Majesty have ascertained that the surtax of 2d. a gallon is not sufficient to counterbalance the charges with which, in consequence of the operation of the laws of Customs and Excise, home-made British spirits have now to contend; and that a surtax limited to the rate of 2d. a gallon would still leave home-made British spirits subject to a differential duty in favour of foreign brandies and spirits.

Consequently, the Government of her Britannic Majesty having represented these circumstances to the Government of his Majesty the Emperor of the French, and his Imperial Majesty having consented that the amount of the said surtax shall be increased, the two high contracting parties to the said treaty of commerce do, by the present additional article, agree that the amount of such surtax shall be 5d. a gallon, and her Britannic Majesty engages to recommend to Parliament the admission into the United Kingdom of brandies and spirits imported from France at a duty exactly equal to the excise duty levied upon home-made spirits, with the addition of a surtax of 5d. a gallon.

The present additional article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted in the Treaty of Commerce of the 23rd of January last.

BOUNTY AND DESERTION.—The authorities of the Horse Guards, taking into consideration the frequent cases of desertion in the Army, and the repeated offence of re-enlistment induced by the temptation of the Government bounty, have resolved on the following regulations:—That the practice of conferring a sum of money on enlistment by way of Royal bounty shall be abolished. That the recruit shall be provided with a thorough outfit, as heretofore, and shall be entered as of the first class on joining the reserves. If, at the termination of the first period of three years, they are returned as "of good behaviour," they will be rewarded with a badge entitling them to an addition of 1d. per day above the ordinary pay, and, as a further inducement, at the expiration of each succeeding three years the same rewards will be conferred, so that during a service of twenty-one years a well-behaved man will be entitled to seven badges and a pay of 2s. 2½d. a day.

THE JAPANESE PORTS, HAKODADI AND NAGASAKI.

BETWEEN the Japanese islands of Nippon and Jesso flow the Straits of Sangar, on the northern shore of which is situated the town of Hakodadi. The Sangar Straits are exceedingly dangerous for navigation, as they have a very strong current, and are much exposed to the impenetrable Japanese mists. The harbour is, however, the best and safest in the world. At the entrance it is about three miles wide, but further on it expands to the width of five miles, running inland in the form of a horseshoe, and at its most southerly point (called the inner harbour) it affords admirable anchorage. This inner harbour is sheltered by a steep, rocky promontory, which, being united with the mainland by a narrow, sandy, slip of land, has the appearance of an island. In its form and position, the promontory bears a striking resemblance to Gibraltar—a resemblance which led Commodore Perry to call Hakodadi the Japanese Gibraltar.

The town is situated on the eastern side of the harbour, and at the northern foot of the promontory just mentioned. The main street, containing about a thousand houses, runs in a line parallel with the shore; and behind this main street are two or three secondary streets. The town of Hakodadi, owing to its peculiar situation, between a lofty promontory and a bay, presents a most picturesque aspect. The rock, like that of Gibraltar, separates into three points or summits, which are totally barren of vegetation, and in severe winters covered with snow. Only a thin covering of underwood clothes the upper declivities. But lower down, towards the foot of the eminence, the eye rests on rich masses of vegetation. Groups of cypresses, spreading planes, and various kinds of fruit-trees, especially plums and peaches, grow in luxuriant profusion.

A winding path leads to that summit of the promontory which immediately overlooks Hakodadi, and every stranger visiting this part of Japan ascends this path to see the wonderfully-expansive prospect commanded from the summit. Viewed from this lofty height, the general aspect of the country is barren, and the portion of cultivated land appears comparatively small.

In sailing up the straits to Hakodadi the first remarkable object that arrests attention is one of the four Buddhist temples, called Zuioghen Zhi, or Defender of the Country. It is sixty feet high, and richly ornamented with carved work and gilding. The houses of Hakodadi are built in the same style as those of all other Japanese towns. They have, for the most part, only one story, surmounted by a sort of loft. The gable end of the house is towards the street; and a little inclosure, either in front or at the back of the house, usually serves as a garden. As the houses are all built of wood and covered with shingles, destructive fires are of frequent occurrence. The streets, which intersect each other at right angles, are broad and exceedingly clean. Here and there they are crossed by railings having gates, which are closed at night. Remarkable stillness prevails throughout the town. The rattling of cart-wheels is never heard, and yet Hakodadi maintains an active trade with Matsui, the largest town of the island of Jesso, as well as with all the principal ports of Nippon.

The port of Hakodadi was opened to commerce by the North American treaty of Kanagawa. As the Sangar Straits were formerly much visited by merchant vessels it was expected that an active commercial traffic would be maintained with Hakodadi, as the town is perfectly healthy, and capable of supplying ships not only with water, but also with poultry, vegetables, and fruit. But neither these advantages nor the excellent harbour have had the effect of attracting foreign visitors, and the preference has been given to Nagasaki. After the expulsion of the Portuguese the latter town was, during the space of two centuries, the only place in Japan where foreigners were permitted, under certain commercial restrictions, to trade with the natives.

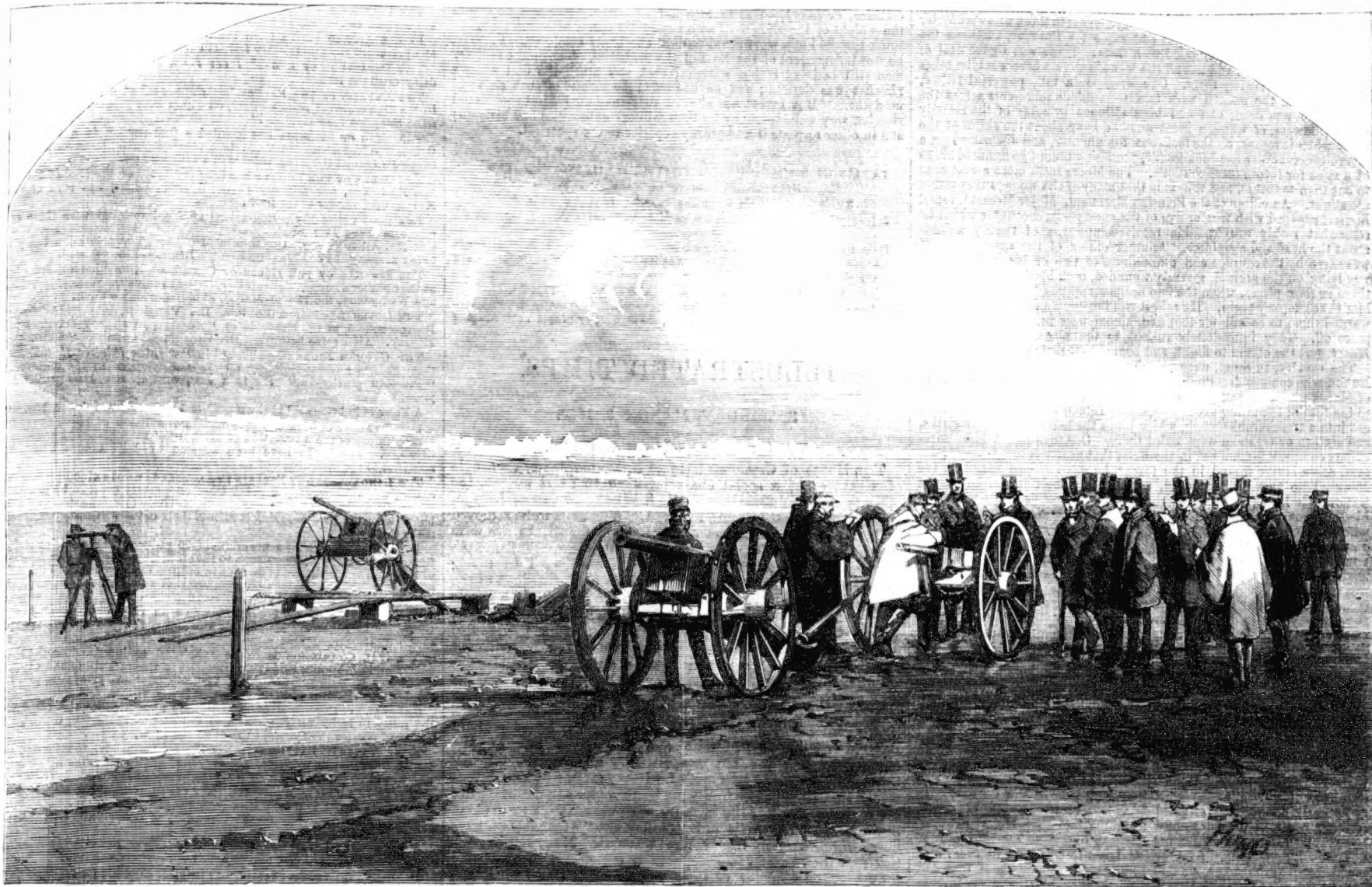
The Bay of Nagasaki is spacious, safe, and healthy. It is situated westward of the Island of Kin-Sin. Admiral Sir James Stirling, who concluded the first English treaty with Japan, was six days in sailing from Wosung to Nagasaki, but a good steamer now makes the voyage in two or three days. At the entrance of the bay a line of verdant hills forms the foreground of the landscape, and mountains with bold outlines bound the horizon. The nearer one approaches Nagasaki the scenery becomes more and more lovely. In every place in which the coast is not very steep the ground is cultivated down to the very margin of the sea. Luxuriant orchards alternate with evergreen groves, cypress, laurel, and oak. The edge of the bay is fringed by lines of little huts, and on the slopes of the hills rise the glaring white walls of magazines, which are plastered with lime to protect them against fire. From amidst thickets the roofs of little temples frequently peep out. The bay swarms with junks and fishing-boats, and in the background the picture rises lines of volcanic peaks, to which the sun imparts ever-varying hues of colour.

Nagasaki contains about 50,000 inhabitants. The streets, which, like those of Hakodadi, run in right lines, are clean and broad. They are paved with flags. It is strange that the houses are not built with stone, which is found in abundance in the vicinity of the town. Wood is, however, the material used for building, and the houses are considered to be sufficiently weatherproof if roofed with tiles. The temples are numerous, but without any claim to architectural beauty.

Before the town of Nagasaki, and communicating with it by a bridge, lies the island of Desima. Since the Dutch have by new treaties obtained the privilege of trading unrestrictedly with Nagasaki,



THE WAR IN MOROCCO. - CHARGE OF SPANISH CAVALRY ON THE 31st OF JANUARY



MR. WHITWORTH'S LECTURE ON HIS NEW RIFLED CANNON, ON SOUTHPORT SANDS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY G. HAYES.)

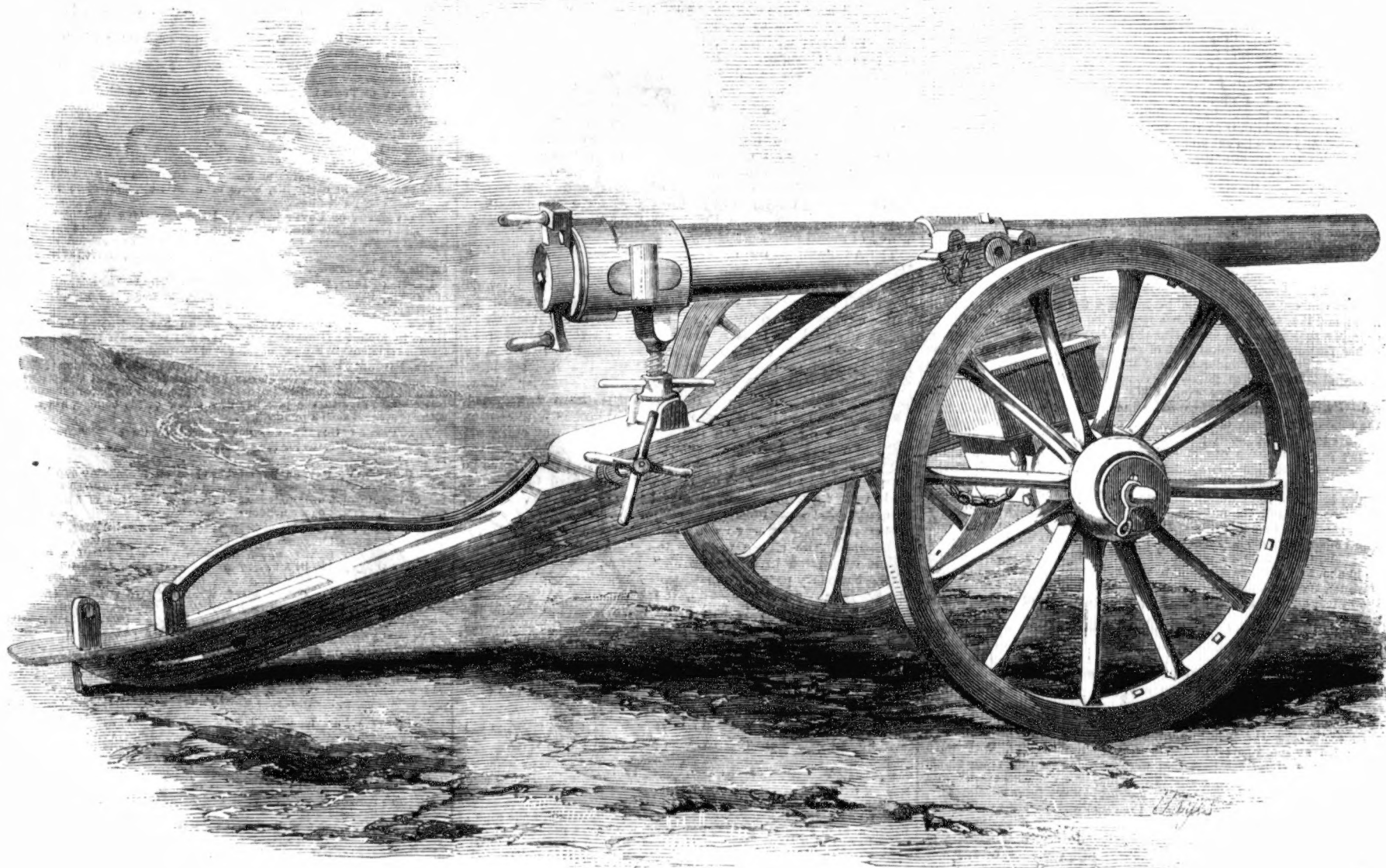
CHARGE OF SPANISH CAVALRY.

THE first opportunity that offered for the Spanish cavalry to operate in the war in Morocco was in the action of Jan. 31, but in this, their first feat of arms, they were not fortunate. A considerable body (six or seven squadrons) was with the 3rd corps, and was led to the charge against a very numerous force of Moorish horse and foot. They certainly were not handled with much judgment or discretion. They went on bravely, however, and in good order, went too far even, got

under the heaviest and best-sustained fire the Moors had ever yet delivered, and came out in no small confusion, leaving dead, wounded, and a few prisoners behind them. According to the official return, there were two officers and sixteen men killed, and eleven officers and thirty-four men wounded. Among the dead and wounded were three field officers. None were returned as "missing;" but, it is said, a subaltern and three or four men were made prisoners and taken away by the Moors, who, strange to say, were more merciful than usual, and

did not invariably cut off all the heads that came within their reach. The Moorish cavalry did not shrink from crossing sabres with the Spanish dragoons; indeed, the Moors in general show much individual pluck. What they are deficient in is organisation, generalship, and artillery.

To revert, however, to the cavalry charge of the 31st of January. The headlong advance of the leading squadrons led them towards a tract of brushwood at the foot of the hills, along which it was easy to



MR. WHITWORTH'S NEW RIFLED CANNON, 12-POUNDER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

discern, even from a distance, that the Moors had a parapet. As the horsemen galloped within short range of this a steady file fire was opened upon them, which lasted in a prolonged and continuous roll fully two or three minutes, and doubtless seemed long to those who were under it. The cavalry went files about and made for the rear, and soon the Moorish horsemen were mingled with them. There was a good deal of cutting and slashing, and not all the wounds were where a soldier takes most pride in showing them. One dragoon, a tall, powerful fellow, was lying on the ground with two tremendous sabre-cuts across the back. He was dead, and had been stripped by some of the rascally camp followers, of whom a great number hang about the skirts of the army when it moves, on the look-out for plunder, and against whom a severe general order has been issued, promising them two hundred blows of a stick for future transgressions. The Moors seem more accustomed to cut than to thrust, and thus it is that many of the wounds they inflict are slight. An officer of the Principe Regiment, Major Moraski, found himself engaged with four or five of the enemy—an encounter which he somewhat rashly sought. He received upwards of twenty wounds about the head and shoulders. Another officer of the same regiment was saved by the courage and devotedness of two of his soldiers. He was lying on the ground, severely wounded, both by shot and sabre, in three or four places, when the two dragoons approached him and urged him to accompany them. He said it was impossible for him to stir, and warned them to be off, for that five Moors were in ambush only a few paces off. They immediately rushed to the place, killed two of the Moors, put the others to flight, and brought off their officer.

The cavalry, in short, were unlucky. On the extreme left General Rubin, who commanded there, sent a squadron to charge a large number of Moors who were scattered over the low marshy plain that stretches to the foot of the rising ground on which Tetuan stands. The squadron got into a treacherous morass, which let in the horses up to their girths, and sixteen or eighteen were killed there. One man had a most miraculous escape. With a cut in the wrist that nearly severed hand from arm, and a severe wound in the throat, he was stripped naked by the Moors, who thought him dead, and left him half immersed in the water. He lay there for about three hours insensible, then recovered himself, got up, and approached the Spanish skirmishers, between whom and the Moors he had lain, they firing at each other over him. It was dusk, and the Spaniards did not know what to make of this strange figure, and some, taking him for an enemy, fired at him. He made signs and moved towards them as fast he could, and finally he was saved and brought into camp, and there was every prospect of his recovering. The charge of the Princessa Hussars on the 1st of February amply revenged the Spaniards for their misfortunes on the previous day. This last feat of arms, another Balacava, has stamped the Spanish cavalry as brave and gallant troopers.

THE WHITWORTH GUN.

FURTHER trials were made last week at Southport with the Whitworth gun, in the presence of several eminent officers, officials, and engineers, to whom Mr. Whitworth explained its principles. It had been hoped that the 80-pounder would have been tested on a stand which would admit of the piece being elevated to such a degree as would show its utmost powers of range. Unfortunately, however, the carriage for this gun had not arrived, so the trials were with guns of the same calibre as formerly, though not elevated to obtain greater length of range. Another cause of the delay arose from the fact that Mr. Whitworth was occupied in preparing for his trials at Sheerness against the iron-cased floating-batteries. At previous trials last year he in every case sent his shot through the sides of these vessels as easily as if they had been made of oak. But it is supposed now that the wrought-iron armour-plates for the frigates are forged of greater strength, inasmuch as Sir William Armstrong with his 70-pounder failed to make any serious impression on them, and the solid old bore 68-pounder at 200 yards effected very little, unless several struck in the same place, when the plate broke, though it let nothing through. Against these plates Mr. Whitworth uses a perfectly flat-headed projectile, which makes its way through the armour when the sharpest pointed shot would fail.

The late experiments at Southport commenced with the 3-pounder, at a low degree of elevation. As usual, it was loaded and fired by one of Mr. Whitworth's people; and the ease and rapidity with which it was managed excited the utmost astonishment among the gentlemen present. That which, next to the gun itself, seemed to be most admired was the tin cartridge-case for the powder. This case is of hexagonal form and about seven inches long, with a very fine hole at the back, through which the flash of the friction tube ignites the powder. At the end which meets the shot is a small lump of grease, which, being melted by the explosion, lubricates the barrel from end to end. The importance of this tin cartridge is, that while it permits the use of a lubricating material for the rest of the barrel, it quite does away with any necessity for sponging out the breech, which at the end of a hard day's firing remains as clean and bright as if the gun had never been used at all. In fact, the tin case takes the whole impurity of the powder remaining in the barrel till it is withdrawn for the next charge. Any one who has seen the careful sponging, or rather washing out, which the Armstrong gun requires, and the time which, after each discharge, is consumed in this operation, will at once see the value of the tin case for the cartridge. As regards facilities for transport, freedom from the chances of accidental ignition, and safety from damp, its superiority to the flannel cartridge is, of course, obvious. Another point which seemed to please equally the military men and engineers on the ground was the extreme simplicity of the breech-loading arrangement, and the fact of the double-threaded screw which closes it being outside the gun instead of inside the chamber, as is the case with the Armstrong. It is this simplicity of mechanism which enables one ordinary workman to load and fire the piece with such ease; and it is to the fact of the screw being outside instead of in a chamber specially made for it that the Whitworth is fitted for firing either round shot or conical shot of any length whatever. When the carriage for the 80-pounder is ready Mr. Whitworth intends firing a 200lb. shot from it at thirty-five degrees of elevation. One of the objections formerly urged against Mr. Whitworth's rapid pitch of rifling was the resistance it occasioned to the passage of the shot, and the consequent danger of bursting the gun. In theory this objection appears to be well founded; practically we find that, with a piece of string passed through one of Mr. Whitworth's projectiles, a sharp movement of the hand is sufficient to draw it rapidly out from the breech to the muzzle.

The first nine shots were fired from the 3-pounder, at three degrees elevation, in about six minutes. The range was, in each case, nearly 1600 yards, the divergence from the line of fire never more than a yard. The 12-pounder gave a fair average result at five degrees elevation; all the shots, ten in number, struck at from 2290 to 2350 yards range, and all at about 2½ yards to the right of the true line. At only two degrees elevation the practice with this piece was beautiful. The range was 1250 yards on the average, the divergence generally one-third to the right.

The 80-pounder was tried at ten degrees with a 101lb. charge and a 90lb. shot, but the inefficient wooden carriage of this piece offered such difficulties to its being well worked on the rough planks on which it stood on the sand that, after four shots, the attempt was given up. They were renewed, however, on the following day at an elevation of seven degrees. The average range was a little short of 3500 yards, the deviation six feet to the right.

In explaining the principle of the guns to the gentlemen who assembled at Southport to witness the experiments, Mr. Whitworth referred to a statement that they were intended for long range alone. This, he said, was wholly a mistake. That he could with them attain long ranges he hoped he had shown, and could show more conclusively, and he trusted that he might say the same with regard to precision. But the guns would throw, and were meant to throw, shells as well as shot. As there was no interior chamber to decide the length of the projectile and the quantity of powder that could be used, it was simply a question of what was required to be done under particular

circumstances, whether there was fired from any of his guns a very long shell, which would be most destructive, or a smaller shell; whether the charge of powder was light, so as to throw the projectile a short distance, or heavy, so as to gain a long range. Nor was he tied to the weight of the shot used with any of his guns; although he might think that he knew what could be most effectively employed. Further, he was independent of the form of the projectile. Thus some military men still believed that a spherical shot was much the best where a ricochet was desired; and he had rifled the surface of such shot and used them. But experience showed that the long conical shot would ricochet very well, better by far than military authorities had believed; and in other respects it was greatly superior to the spherical.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1860.

TWO SOCIAL REFORM BILLS.

THE House of Commons has had before it this week a couple of measures of a social character—one to avert strikes, the other to check adulteration. We hardly know two subjects on which some action is more required. The evils to be removed in both cases are barbarous and criminal; for strikes are wars which (apart from the physical suffering they cause) inflame the passions and corrupt the loyalty of those engaged in them; while as for adulteration, it is a pernicious blackguardism of the very lowest description. It is, indeed, the freedom of a people from corruptions like these, and not its political freedom only, which is the proper test of its civilisation; and the spread of democracy, if unaccompanied by this kind of reform, will only tend to bring the element which makes strikes and the element which pollutes food into ascendancy in the government. What kind of "reform" that would be sensible men can guess for themselves.

The evil of "strikes" was attacked, on the occasion above referred to, by the Masters and Operatives Bill of Mr. Mackinnon. As the bill was virtually abandoned—a Select Committee having to be moved for in the matter by-and-by—it would be waste of time to discuss its provisions in detail. But the real inspiration of the measure was evidently the example of those French "Conseils des Prudhommes" of which we have heard so much lately from several quarters. Now, not to mention that their success in France in a different state of society proves little in favour of their prospect of success here, Mr. Mackinnon's machinery was too cumbersome. First, the masters and workmen were to have power to appoint arbitrators—which nothing prevents them from doing at present. Then, masters and workmen, being inhabitant householders, were to have power to petition the Crown for permission to form an equitable council—a roundabout way of asking Government to interfere. But a singular (though, of course, in some degree wholesome) jealousy of Government power in matters social is universally diffused in the country, and would neutralise all the good in this clause: indeed, such machinery as the bill's would not remove the causes of the ordinary strikes. If the workmen are determined to ignore political economy, and will pay some of their class to lead them in doing so, of what avail would a "council" be, where masters would vote one way and workmen another? Anxious as we are to see something done, we are glad this bill is withdrawn, though very willing to hear the result of a Committee. Even that, however, if the House appoints employers of labour on it, will end in recommending nothing but what suits the masters, which is just the state of things of which the workmen at present complain. The discussion was chiefly valuable as showing a growing interest in such questions, and a growing sense of the inability of Acts of Parliament only to meet difficulties which are really caused by a low tone of social morality and a low level of social knowledge. While greed is the moral principle of capital, and ignorance all but universal in the ranks of labour, strikes are really as natural as war. They are appeals to physical force caused by a deficiency of moral force.

The Adulteration Bill of Mr. Scholefield was more lucky than Mr. Mackinnon's bill, and has made some progress in Committee. Adulteration is a crime of which society can lay hold in a penal way, while it cannot punish a master for making a cruel use of his position, or a workman for making a foolish use of his. It is a bad look-out for the "progress of the species" view that adulteration is solemnly declared by Parliament to be universal now. Hence the Scholefieldian Bill, which proposes to make it penal, and to establish officers to see that it does not remain unknown. Without "analysts" (though some members opposed the notion) how is adulteration to be checked? Who can tell whether his tea or coffee are polluted or no? And without some "inquisitorial" proceeding (of which rascals have a just dread) how will the offence be ever brought to light? The House, we are glad to observe, dealt rather summarily with objections to this bill, feeling, no doubt, that some inconveniences must be risked rather than that no measure against so vile a practice should pass. Thus, it maintained the clause making the "knowingly selling an article calculated to injure health" penal, and also the clause giving summary powers to magistrates in such cases. We hope the whole measure is safe; and, if tradesmen are "annoyed," so much the better; it will make them more anxious to discontinue the crime which alone has made the annoyance possible. Still, legislation will not do everything here, any more than in the case of strikes. We shall still do well to study the chapter "Morrison's Pill" in Carlyle's "Past and Present." It cannot be too often remembered that the vices which make society ignoble can only be radically attacked in the individual conscience. So it is with political reforms too. You do not only want more voters, you want better ones.

RATHER ENIGMATIC.—Mr. W. Robinson, a Madras gentleman, who signs himself Commissioner of the "Mofussil Police," publishes an advertisement asking for candidates for police commands. They must be robust men, under thirty, sober, well conducted, with a "gentlemanlike tone of honour," firm, persevering, just, forbearing, frank, and possessed of tact; must have had a "good systematic education," and be prepared to keep ponies, must have a colloquial familiarity with one native language and a knowledge of criminal law.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCE CONSORT honoured Mr. Bell with a visit at his studio, in Douro-place, Kensington, on Monday.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is to set out for his long-promised Canadian tour at the latter end of May or beginning of June next.

PRINCE ALFRED landed from the *Euryalus* at Portsmouth on Monday, and proceeded the same day to London.

THE DEPARTURE OF HER MAJESTY FROM TOWN, it is now said, will be delayed till the 10th.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH lately appeared at a ball at the Tuileries in "a high crown of polished gold, on which were printed in black enamel some Egyptian hieroglyphics!"

THE KING OF SARDINIA has granted a free pardon to a priest named Grillo, who had been condemned to a year's imprisonment for treasonable language against the King, uttered in a coffee-house.

THE ORDER OF THE THISTLE has been conferred on the Earl of Fife; and Mr. Buchanan, our Minister at the Spanish Court, has been created a Knight Commander of the Bath.

THE most noticeable presentations at the late levee were those of the members of the *For* Arctic expedition—Captain McClintock, Dr. Walker, and Mr. Allen Young. On Captain McClintock's presentation being read to her Majesty she conferred on him the honour of knighthood.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS will hold his full-dress levees at the Speaker's house, Westminster, on the evenings of Wednesday, the 7th, and Wednesday, the 14th of March, at half-past ten o'clock.

THE QUEEN nominated the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, late Head Master of Harrow School, to the bishopric of Rochester, in the room of the late Dr. Murray. After some hesitation Dr. Vaughan has declined the bishopric.

THE GERMAN JOURNAL published in Paris, the *Pariser Zeitung*, states that Prussia has determined to elevate Meyerbeer to the dignity of a "Prussian gentleman." He is a Jew, and therefore no gentleman at present.

A FORT is to be erected at the mouth of the harbour of Great Yarmouth.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS has presented seven boxes of books to the itinerant library of the Association of Mechanics' Institutes of Lancashire and Cheshire. The books have been selected by Miss Coutts with special reference to the instruction of female operatives.

THE LAND COVERED BY FORESTS IN ALGERIA is nearly 4700 square miles in extent, without including a great tract of country overrun by brushwood, which the Arabs set on fire occasionally, not only to drive away wild beasts, but also for the good breeding it affords their cattle when the young shoots make their appearance.

THE ART-UNION offers a premium of 70 guineas for a group or statuette from English history; 30 guineas to the second best model; also a premium of 100 guineas for a series of designs in outline to the "Idylls of the King," and insists for these designs on simplicity of composition and expression, severe beauty of form, and pure, correct drawing.

THE INSTALLATION OF LORD BROUGHAM AS CHANCELLOR, and of Mr. Gladstone as Rector, of Edinburgh University is deferred from the Easter to the Whitsuntide holidays.

A ROYAL COMMISSION is to be appointed to inquire into the state of education in Scotland, it is said; and that in the meantime the capitation grants, which were to be extended to Scotland this spring, are to be suspended till the result of the commission is known.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE BROWN, G.C.B., is appointed to the command of the forces in Ireland in succession to General Lord Seaton, G.C.B., whose period of service (five years) expires on the 12th proximo.

FIELD MARSHAL BARIATINSKI has left St. Petersburg to return to Tiflis. He intended passing by Moscow in order to have an interview with Schamyl, who was to go to that city from Kalouga to meet him.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has conferred the canonry of Norwich, vacant by the resignation of Canon Wodehouse, on the Rev. J. W. L. Heaviside, Examiner in Mathematics for the University of London and for the Council of Military Education.

A VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS is in the course of formation at Winchester College. Upwards of fifty names have been already received.

DR. SEEMAN, THE NATURALIST, has just left England for Australasia on a scientific mission.

THE PEOPLE OF BIRMINGHAM have adopted a resolution to found a Free Library in that town, to be supported by a local rate.

A NEW AND IMPROVED "DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE," by Dr. Worcester, is announced. This work is stated to have been in preparation for more than fourteen years, and will contain 42,000 more words than Todd's edition of Johnson.

THE VOTE which will be required in the year ending the 31st of March, 1860, to defray the expenses which will be incurred for naval and military operations in China, beyond the ordinary grants for navy and army services for the year 1859-60, amounts to £250,000.

THE LIBRARIAN OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM exhibits certain mutilated books in the reading-room, with a note directing attention to the circumstance that portions have been torn out by some person or persons who have visited the room. The librarian hopes that the readers will endeavour to discover and put a stop to such proceedings in future.

THE NEWS that the *Journal des Debats* had been sold to M. Michel Chevalier is authoritatively contradicted.

THE PRUSSIAN COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE AT BERLIN adopted, without discussion, propositions recommending the abolition of the transit duties and usury laws, and another in favour of applying the decimal system in all its completeness.

THE BRY OF TUNIS has given permission for the establishment of a newspaper in Tunis. It will appear on the 1st of May under the title of *Official Gazette of Tunis*.

THE SUCCESS OF THE LATE BURNS FESTIVAL in England and the Schiller anniversary in Germany has determined a number of Italian gentlemen to prepare a jubilee in honour of Dante for the year 1865.

A VOLUME OF "REMAINS OF THE LATE DOUGLAS JERROLD," consisting of tales written in early life, some of them new, and some reprints, is announced for publication.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT has visited the *Himalaya* at Alexandria, and has been permitted to witness the working of an Armstrong gun. He has himself had a number of guns rifled under the supervision of Colonel Minicé. The *Himalaya*, with men and guns for China, arrived at Alexandria on the 29th of January.

DERVICH PACHA, the newly-accredited Turkish Ambassador at the Court of Russia, has arrived at St. Petersburg, with all the members of his embassy.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF SWITZERLAND has instructed its Consul at Rome to protest against the name of Swiss regiments still given to the foreign regiments in the pay of the Papal Government.

MR. FAIRHOLT is preparing to publish, with notes, the curious collection of ballads left by Peppy, the diarist, and still preserved at Cambridge. It is stated that the regulation imposed by Peppy, that his papers should never be examined save in the presence of a fellow of his college, has hitherto alone prevented such a publication.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has granted a sum of 5000 francs to the municipality of Orleans for the purchase of the house of Diana de Poitiers in that city.

THE ROYAL VOLUNTEER BALL takes place on Wednesday evening in the Floral Hall, Covent-garden. The Queen patronises it; almost every member of the Royal family patronises it, with a long list of Duchesses and Countesses. It will be a splendid affair, no doubt.

A DISCOVERY OF GOLD has been made in Glengaherburn, Peeblesshire. The gold is in small nuggets, some of them resembling flattened peas. The quantity already picked up is in weight equal to half a sovereign. Whether the gold will be found to an extent worth working remains to be seen.

THE REV. CANON CANNING, of Windsor, died suddenly on Sunday morning. The deceased was in his eighty-third year. He was appointed one of the Canons of St. George's in 1828. He was brother to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and first cousin to the statesman George Canning.

MR. HADFIELD, in the House of Commons, called attention to a prize-fight for the champion's belt about to occur, and asked if the Home Secretary intended to prevent it? Sir George Lewis gravely described how Sir Richard Mayne would stop it if he could; but, as he did not know when or where it was to take place, it might take place without his knowledge.

PROPERTY valued at £50,000 was destroyed by fire in Wood-street, Cheshire, on Monday morning. The chief sufferers are Messrs. Morley and Co., warehousemen; but many of their neighbours also suffered considerably.

PICCOLOMINI IS MARRIED. She sang on Saturday week at the Crystal Palace, and then left for Dublin, where the knot was tied. Her husband is an Italian Prince, and a relative of one of the Cardinals. He is a man of some fortune—for Italy.

THE FIRST OF FOUR NEW STEAM-PACKETS for service from Holyhead to Dublin was launched on Saturday. These steamers are built for speed; and it is expected that an average rate of twenty miles an hour will be attained.

THE GREAT FLOODTIDES of the 7th of March are beginning to create some little uneasiness on the coasts of Normandy and Brittany.

THERE are 21,700 BENEFIT CLUBS in England and Wales, the aggregate number of members being 2,500,000.

A SELECT COMMITTEE of the HOUSE OF COMMONS has been appointed to consider the means of effectually cleansing the Serpentine.

THE "TIMES" has been suppressed throughout the Austrian Empire.

THE REV. JOHN GIFFARD WARR, D.D., Dean of Lincoln, died on Monday night.

MRS. HODSON, widow of Captain Hodson, had the honour of presenting to her Majesty, in person, two swords, one taken by her late husband from the King of Delhi, and the other surrendered by the King on the 21st of September, 1857, the former of which formerly belonged to Jehanghier, A.D. 1603, and the latter to Nadir Shah.

ALGERIA has already begun sending to Paris peas, French beans, new potatoes, strawberries, and other vegetables and fruits, which in Europe only attain maturity in the summer.

THE TOWN of COGNAC is better known in the spirituous world than by its being the birthplace of the restorer of letters in France, Francis I. A statue to that Monarch is about being set up by the citizens.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Bombay Times* describes the killing of a tiger by strychnine. The tiger infested some low undergrowth at the bottom of his garden, and he resolved to destroy it. He therefore took a buffalo recently killed by the tiger, and stewed a quantity of strychnine in the bitten flesh. The tiger came, ate, and died immediately.

ROSA BONHEUR is said to have accepted a commission to go to the American prairies, and paint from life a herd of wild buffaloes.

THE *Gazette de Lausanne* gives the following from a Lucerne journal:—"The young wife of Garibaldi has arrived at Lucerne, in company with an Adjutant of her husband. The officer, being challenged to a duel by the General, replied to it by flight." Another report is that the General, having received some information as to the antecedents of his bride, has applied to the Pope for a dispensation.

SEVENTY-ONE MILLION NEWSPAPERS were delivered in the United Kingdom in 1858, and seven million two hundred and fifty thousand book packets passed through the post. The average weight of book packets was 5½ oz. each, and of newspapers 2½ oz. each. The average postage on book packets was 2½ d. each. When the impressed newspaper stamp is abolished all newspapers will pass through the post as book packets.

AN AGED COUPLE, living at Easton, near Huntingdon, applied to the guardians for out-door relief, but were refused, and told to go into the union. This so preyed upon their minds that they sold their furniture, paid their debts, and were afterwards found drowned in a pond; they committed the deed while clad in their night dresses.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It is hardly likely that the paper duties will come on for debate this week, but early next week, or, at all events, some time next week, this important question will have to be settled. Meanwhile, all the advocates of the extinction of this injurious tax ought to be on the alert, for whenever the Chancellor of the Exchequer shall move his resolution on this subject there will be a battle. On Tuesday the Protectionists, under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Duncombe, made a good fight to resist the free importation of corks, on the ground that in one district of Spain (Catalonia) an export duty is levied upon corkwood. The same ground will be taken by the Conservatives in the battle upon the paper tax, and an attempt will be made to postpone the removal of the paper duties until France shall have consented to abolish her export duty on rags. I can hardly think that this ruse will be successful; but if it fail the failure will not be owing to want of energy on the part of those who wish to retain the tax. Sir William Miles goes in for the retention of the duty and for a lowering of the income tax; but on this ground he will be beaten if he should press a division. The other move is far more plausible and far more dangerous, and, if we are to believe the gossip of the clubs and the lobby, the Government will be hardly pressed. My own opinion is that Ministers will be successful; but still it is always dangerous to underrate the force of an enemy. Every night discontented paper-manufacturers are, I learn, stationed in the lobby to canvass members to insist upon the retention of the tax until assurances are obtained that we shall have rags from France duty free. And besides this they have retained the services of an active agent, who is at work night and day, for the same object. But I hear of no active, energetic exertions of this sort on the other side. Petitions, I know, have been presented in abundance, but petitions have very little effect on the House now—their day is gone. The way to carry a measure now is to canvass members individually. The energetic exertions of half-a-dozen influential men in this way would do more in twenty-four hours than ten thousand petitions. Considering the vast influence of the press, the removal of the paper duty, now that it is proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, ought to be effected by a triumphant majority. And if this influence were brought to bear directly upon the minds of the members this would be the result. Leading articles are all very well in their way, but at this crisis every newspaper proprietor, every publisher, and, indeed, every man interested in the abolition of the tax should personally, or at all events by letter, canvass their members.

The two new members of the Old Water-colour Society are Mr. Burket Foster and Mr. Smallfield.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Tom Taylor's new comedy, "The Overland Route," at the Haymarket, is spirited and lively, with but little plot, and that little told episodically, but that to life. The acting is generally good, but Mr. Buckstone may be selected as specially humorous: it is long since he has seemed to enter so thoroughly into a character. The piece is an undoubted success.

The same may be said of Mr. Watts Phillips' new comedy, "Paper Wings," at the Adelphi, except that Mr. Phillips mixes a great deal of fierceness with his banter, and hits cruelly hard where Mr. Taylor but lightly touches. The object of "Paper Wings" is to satirise the bubble and stock mania of some two or three years back. It is cleverly conceived and brilliantly written, and shows that its author has as great aptitude for comedy as for melodrama.

Mrs. Keeley has accepted a permanent engagement at the Lyceum.

THE PAPER DUTY.—A meeting of the Newspaper Press Association, the object of which is to obtain a repeal of the paper duty, was held at Pelee's Coffee-house, Fleet-street, on Wednesday. Mr. W. Ewart, M.P., occupied the chair. The meeting was convened by circular, which stated that Sir William Miles, Bart., M.P. for East Somersetshire, and Mr. Fuller, M.P. for Hertfordshire, having both given notices of motions hostile to the repeal of the paper duty, the committee considered it necessary to summon a meeting in London of newspaper proprietors, with the twofold object of publicly expressing their sentiments in respect to this question, and of using their personal influence with their representatives in Parliament in order to defeat such attempts. A resolution was passed in support of Mr. Gladstone's proposition; and the general opinion of the meeting seemed to be that it must be carried. A motion was made affirming the advantages of a half-penny stamp on newspapers, but the meeting wisely decided that it should keep to the specific question for which it had been called together.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—A meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company was held on Wednesday, when it was resolved—"That the directors are hereby empowered to raise a sum not exceeding £20,000 by the issue or upon the security of shares to that extent of £20 each in the authorised share capital of the Atlantic Telegraph Company. And that the directors be authorised to attempt to bring the existing cable again into working order, failing which they are requested to recover for sale as much of the submerged cable as it may be possible to raise and bring to shore." "That, in the event of failure to bring the Atlantic cable again into working order during the present year, the whole of the cable that shall have been recovered, as well as any new cable that may have been purchased for the purposes of the expedition, shall become and continue the absolute property of the subscribers to the share capital, authorised by the present meeting; and that, so soon as all expenses and liabilities incident to such expedition shall have been ascertained and paid, the said cable shall be sold, and the proceeds, to an amount equal to the calls paid up, divided ratably among the said subscribers."

ELECTION PETITIONS.—The Carlow and Dundalk election petitions have been withdrawn. The petitions against the return of Sir James Graham and Mr. Lawson for Carlisle, and of Lord Grey de Wilton and Mr. Brooks for Wexmouth, have failed to the ground.

SIR F. HEAD ON MILITARY DRILL IN SCHOOLS.

THE following characteristic letter on this subject has been written by Sir Francis Head to Mr. Edwin Chadwick:—

My dear Sir,—My opinion on the "Programme" you have this morning sent to me, on constituting drill and gymnastics as part of a national system of education, is, very briefly, as follows:—No animal, whether on four legs or on two, however he may enjoy life, can be of any use in the workshop of man until he has been sufficiently divested of that portion of his natural inheritance called "a will of his own." What's the use of a cow if she won't allow either man or maid to milk her? What's the use of a horse if he won't put his head into a collar, or suffer a saddle to be placed on his back? In like manner, of what use to the community is a man, in any rank of life, if he refuses to practise the hereditary motto of the Prince of Wales, "Ich Dien—I serve"—in short, if the fellow won't obey?

Now as, in Mr. Rary's hands, a couple of little straps have proved sufficient not only to conquer Cruiser, but to divest numberless other horses, mules, and donkeys, of that portion of their self-will which had made them useless instead of useful to man, so must a system of military drill in our public and private schools incline the rising generation of boys "to do their duty in that station of life unto which it shall please God to call them."

In the army drill does not make a gang of recruits any braver than when they enlisted; but, restraining rather than exciting their courage, it teaches them gradually to exchange their own will for that of their Sergeant, Captain, Colonel, or General, until complete discipline welds these floating particles into a solid mass, which twenty times the number of equally brave but undisciplined men are utterly unable to resist. But as Mr. Rary's principle is equally applicable to a cheesemonger's horse as to Lord Cardigan's charger, so is military drill as advantageous to boys of all grades and professions as to their brother soldiers. The dull-sounding but magic little word of command, "Eyes right!" "Eyes left!" "Eyes front!" "Right turn!" "Left turn!" "Right about turn!" "Left about turn!" "Quick march!" "Halt!" "Stand at ease!" "Attention!" &c., instil into the minds of a lot of little boys the elements, not of war, but of peace. Instead of making them ferocious, to use Mr. Rary's expression, these words "gentle" them, until, by learning to be subservient, not to their own, but to the wills of others, they become fit in every possible department to serve their country. On entering the Foreign Office, Home Office, the Church, the counting-house, the manufactory, or the farm, in which they desire to labour, their habit of obedience would prove so beneficial to their employers, as well as to themselves, that I feel confident, if a system of drill be once adopted in our public and private schools, a tall undrilled young man, like a raw unbroken horse, would by the generality of dealers be considered as "unserviceable."

Sir Francis has published a letter which the *Times* refused to insert. That journal had asked—"What have we done in the last ten years to make the France of 1859 more hostile to us than the France of ten years ago? The time is come when it is most friendly and most wise to speak plainly and openly." Sir Francis replied:—

It is the *Times* newspaper which, by herculean, or, "to speak plainly and openly," by diabolical, exertions, has created the lamentable feelings you have described, and which, by the formation of rifle clubs and enormous national expenses, you are now encouraging us to rebel. I declare that our Prime Ministers, of all parties, have successively, one after another, expressed to Napoleon III. their regret and disapprobation of the insulting language which, for more than six years, you and your "Paris Correspondent" have waged against the French Emperor, his army, and his people. Napoleon III. hath done all that doth become a man to cultivate friendly relations with Great Britain. After repeatedly complaining in vain to the Queen's Government, and having, in a letter lately published in the *Times*, remarked "that the English, of whom I have always been the most faithful ally, should attack me incessantly in their journals in the most unworthy and the most unjustifiable manner, is what I cannot comprehend," he has found that the *Times* newspaper not only continues to wage war against him, but, with its enormous power, to make every possible effort to de throne him, and therefore to involve France, England, and Europe in the horrors of war. Under such circumstances, is it not natural that he should feel that the safest and wisest course he can pursue is to rally and enlist in his favour the passions as well as the affections of his people?

MASSACRE OF THE CREW OF THE DUTCH STEAMER "ONRUST."—His Netherlands Majesty's steamer *Onrust*, lying in a narrow creek about five days' steaming above Rangoon (Singapore), on the 27th of December, was attacked by about 600 men in prahus, who suddenly made their appearance from the creeks, so that the crew had not time to fire more than one shot, when the assailants were in possession of the vessel. After murdering all on board (seven officers and fifty men) they ran the vessel aground.

THE "TABLET" AND KING COLE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* remarks:—"The *Saturday Review* has been seized for something unpalatable to Government. The worthy licensers of newspapers don't give themselves the trouble of looking into the *Tablet*, where they would find a glorification of the island of St. Helena, 'fitting receptacle of one miscreant, and the proper spot for his successor.' Helena was an Englishwoman, who gave birth at York to the Emperor Constantine, founder of the temporal power in Popes, and her name fittingly graces the prison-house of him who touched it. *Tablet* goes on to add that Helena's father was a certain native Briton, Prince Colus, and rather irreverently suggests that this personage must be the original old King Cole, who called for his pipe, and called for his bowl, and called for his fiddlers three!"

SALMON FOR AUSTRALIA.—About 20,000 salmon ova were recently taken from the River Dorey for transport to Australia. They were safely deposited in beautiful condition in boxes prepared with gravel, and then conveyed on board ship. The apparatus is so arranged that the ova will receive a continuous stream of pure cold water all the voyage out, the water running through an icehouse, containing fifteen tons of Wenham Lake ice, before it flows over the ova.

LOVE AND SUICIDE.—A young couple in Michigan were engaged to be married, but, the intended bridegroom having indulged too freely in liquor a few nights previous to the wedding-day, the bride's parents withdrew their consent. The young lady then informed her affianced that she had rather die than disobey her parents, and preferred death to living without him. They, therefore, agreed to terminate their lives at the same time. He obtained two pistols, and loaded them each with a ball and seven buckshot. A time was appointed for the tragedy, and, seeing his intended approaching the house where he was, the young man shot himself in the head, and fell lifeless. Without a moment's delay she took a pistol from her pocket, and was raising it to her head, when her sister snatched the weapon from her grasp. The funeral of the suicide took place on the 9th ult.

A MEMBER OF THE SEA-SERPENT FAMILY.—The *Berkeley* of Jan. 25 reports that as two gentlemen were walking near the shore at Hungary Bay they heard a noise like that made by a large fish floundering in the water. "They ran to the spot whence the sound came: there they found alive, but rapidly dying from exhaustion, a 'huge sea-monster.' Its colour was a bright and shining silver. This brilliant covering of the skin was, from the struggling of the animal, scattered in great profusion about the place. The skin had a rough, watery feeling to the touch, but was destitute of any scales. There was a dorsal fin running nearly the whole length of the creature, composed of short, slender rays, united by a transparent membrane, and separated at intervals of less than an inch; in other words, the slight back fin had a number of regular gaps in it. From a drawing which is now before us (for we had not the good fortune to see the creature itself) the conformation of the head, in profile, is not unlike that of the dog. The eyes large, flat, and exceedingly brilliant. It had very small pectoral fins, and minute ventral fins proceeding from the thorax. It had large gills, but was, we are told, destitute of teeth. But its most remarkable feature was a beautiful crest appendage, consisting of eight long spines, of a rich red colour, which sprang from the top of the head, commencing at the frontal edge of the forehead, and following each other, singly, about an inch apart, the three first of these spines being connected halfway upwards from the cranial covering by a gauzy filament, but all the rest were wholly destitute of any membranous appendage. These delicate crestal spines, which the creature had the power to raise or depress at pleasure, were of irregular length—the longest, growing from about the centre of the top of the head, being three feet in length, and the rest ranging from eighteen inches to two feet and a half. The larger number of these appendages were flattened at the extreme end, somewhat like the tip of a spear. The length of this singular inhabitant of the briny world was 16 feet 7 inches from the front edge of the lips to the end of the tail. It was 11 inches deep, measuring through from the top of the back, at about one-third of its length from the head; and its thickness, laterally, was from 5 to 6 inches, at the same distance from the head. Thence the body tapered gradually until it terminated in a bluntish point of about half an inch in diameter—the tail having no fin or other appendage. This singular fish was inspected by Doctor H. J. Hinson, Doctor P. B. Tucker, Doctor Gilman, and other gentlemen, including J. Mathew Jones, Esq., the last-named gentleman being well known as the author of "The Naturalist in Bermuda." Mr. Jones is in possession of the head, a considerable part of the tail, and a section of the dorsal fin; and is, we believe, engaged in preparing a paper bearing upon the peculiar features of this wonderful specimen."

LORD ELGIN AND SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR.

THE gentlemen who so recently acted as her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China and her Majesty's Commander-in-Chief in the Chinese Seas have had a difference. They agree only in this—that they quarrelled when on duty, and that the public service suffered by their quarrel. Sir Michael Seymour asserts that, by Lord Elgin's rashness, her Majesty's ships were put in peril; and Lord Elgin declares that, by Sir Michael Seymour's slackness, the moment was lost for making an impression upon the Imperial authorities at Peking. Both parties appeal to the despatches. These have been published.

In a despatch dated "H.M.S. *Furious*, Gulf of Peiho, April 23, 1858," Lord Elgin reports the inconvenience which had been occasioned by the failure of Rear-Admiral Sir M. Seymour to carry out the arrangements which had been made to ensure the presence of a fleet of gun-boats off the Peiho to support the demands made by his Excellency on the Chinese Government.

Lord Elgin communicated to the French, Russian, and American Ambassadors his intention of advancing within the bar of the Peiho with the gun-boats. But, he says:—

On the 3rd of April, however, two days after the dispatch of the communication in question, the *Coromandel*, tender to the flag-ship, arrived at Shanghai, conveying the very perplexing intelligence that not only had Sir M. Seymour put off his own departure from Hong-Kong from the 16th, the date mentioned in his letter of the 2nd of March to me, to the 25th, but that no preparations for the immediate dispatch of gun-boats for the north seemed to be in progress at the time of her sailing. I gathered this information from the verbal reports of the officers of the ship, for on neither point did I hear from Sir M. Seymour.

Lord Elgin then states that he was obliged to desist from his intended expedition, and expresses his opinion that had he been enabled to push on he would have brought the Imperial Government to terms.

A second despatch of Lord Elgin's is dated April 29, 1858. At that time Sir M. Seymour had arrived at the Gulf of Pechili:—

It is with a degree of surprise which I have difficulty in describing that I learn from the information which he has now for the first time furnished to me that his arrangements are so made that the very inadequate force which he is about to supply will not arrive here until the approach of the season when the climate is most favourable to the European constitution. No explanation of the cause of this most grievous disappointment has been given to me, and I do not trust myself to hazard a conjecture on the subject.

Lord Elgin says, in conclusion, that the British force in the Chinese seas is sufficient to carry out the policy of Government, but "it is indispensable that those who control the material force of Great Britain in this quarter should lend to those who direct its diplomacy a vigorous and intelligent support."

Sir Michael Seymour replies in a long despatch, addressed to the Admiralty:—

Before leaving Hong-Kong I had made every inquiry respecting the navigation of the Gulf of Pechili, and had come to the conclusion, which I had hoped to have communicated to Lord Elgin at Shanghai, that the end of April would be sufficiently early for her Majesty's ships to assemble off the Peiho to carry on operations with effect, and the fact of the *Calcutta* having carried away her mainyard in the still strong north-east wind, while crossing the gulf on the 23rd of April, sufficiently proves the correctness of my opinion. Even after the 10th of May there were many days during which it was quite impracticable for the gun-boats to carry on active operations. . . . Had Lord Elgin waited my arrival at Shanghai, I should have been able to learn his Excellency's wishes, and to have made the necessary arrangements for carrying out any intended operations; but, no later than the 10th of April, his Lordship, acting on the verbal reports of the subordinate officers of my flag-tender, and knowing that I must be close at hand (I arrived three days afterwards), proceeded with the small force then at Shanghai to the Gulf of Pechili, and, having arrived there on the 14th, finds, according to his Lordship's own admission, that the force was inadequate for making any movement in advance, so that the only object attained was the placing me in a false position by taking my ships from under my orders, and giving to the Chinese an undue knowledge of our approach.

Sir Michael Seymour enters into the whole question at great length in his reply. On this document the Admiralty expresses the following opinion:—

This answer has been fully considered by their Lordships, and they think it due to the high character and the long and distinguished services of Sir M. Seymour to state their opinion that such answer to the charges and imputations of Lord Elgin is complete and satisfactory.

THE POPE AND HIS ADVISERS.—The *Times*' correspondent at Florence gives an interesting account of the public appearances of the Pope in the midst of his people at Rome. There is something ghostlike, says the writer, in the uneasiness with which the Sovereign Priest haunts the most frequented quarters of his capital, parading himself before a wondering multitude. From 1849 to 1859 he had been gathering embonpoint, but the past few weeks, since the publication of "The Pope and the Congress," are not unlikely to wear him to a shadow. His great fear is, a new accession of the Gallican Church from the bosom of Rome. His religion blends with all his thoughts and feelings, and he wonders how other men can be so utterly engrossed with mere worldly concerns. "They all plague themselves about Italy, and no one thinks of Mary," he says. "They talk about independence, and do not see that they are under the thralldom of the devil." A few days ago he was walking out of the Port Angelica, accompanied by two Monsignori, when he stopped before an old countryman who was kneeling on the high road, soliciting his blessing. "Are you a Christian?" asked the Pope; and, as the poor fellow, all taken aback, was dumb, the question was again and again repeated, with sharp eagerness. "Please your Holiness, I am" (Santo Padre, si), at last stammered out the countryman. "Do you know the Ten Commandments?" pursued the apostolical catechist. "Santo Padre, si," was again the answer; whereupon the Pontiff bade him tell them one by one. The poor fellow tried one or two, then jumped to the fifth or sixth, perceived his mistake, and fairly broke down. The Pope then walked on with his suite, and said triumphantly, "Let the people learn God's commandments by heart, and then they will be fit for independence." That the Pope is subject to fits of ungovernable irritation is a matter no one seems to doubt. Moments of maudlin depression follow close upon periods of hysteric elation. He is, in his own conceit, the man ever sinned against, never sinning; and when the thoughts of impending evils crowd upon him he takes shelter in his favourite retreat of the "Catacombs." The Pope, however, is certainly honest and earnest, and he allows himself to be persuaded by his counsellors that the Church will forfeit its holiness the moment it loses its wealth and power. The chief of the advisers who prompt him with the cry of "No surrender!" is undoubtedly Cardinal Antonelli. A more rational party is to be found in the Sacred College, at the head of which is Cardinal Marini, and who is said to have disapproved of the "Encyclical Letter," having boldly blamed the violence of its language. The Papal army, which Antonelli is bent upon raising to 26,000 men (of these only 5000 natives), hardly as yet numbers 14,000. The native troops are paid at the rate of 7½d. per diem, and the foreign hirelings 10d. The officers are also paid with the same liberality.

Literature.

Rural Life in Bengal. Illustrative of Anglo-Indian Suburban Life; more particularly in connection with the Planter and Peasantry, and the varied Produce of the Soil and Seasons. With copious Details of the Culture and Manufacture of Indigo. Being Letters from an Artist in India to his Sisters in England. By the Author of "Anglo-Indian Domestic Life," "Rough Notes of a Rough Trip to Rangoon," &c. Illustrated with 166 Engravings. Thacker and Co. and W. H. Allen and Co.

We do not know how it may be with others, but it cost us a moment's thought to make sense of "*Rural Life in Bengal*." The associations of the adjective in a British brain trip up the etymological meaning at first. "Rural" is a word that calls up "the swick't hedger" and the "whistling ploughman," and the hedgerows, with hips and hogs and hedgeroses, all under a temperate sun, with farmsteads not far off, the plover flying low or the lark singing high, the tinkle of a sheep-bell, phlegmatic rooks "cawing to the windy wood," and a sweet, cool odour over all. From all this, rude is the transition to indigo-fields, zemindars, ryots, Chinese pumps, and branding aune; but we must, we suppose, "accept" the dictionary meaning of "rural," and think, as we turn over this beautiful quarto, that we are in the country;



VILLAGE MARKET-PLACE, BENGAL.

first, however, transporting ourselves to Calcutta, that we may realise the due contrast with town life in India.

A very few words will be sufficient to pass this book to our readers with our cordial recommendation. In brief, it gives the plainest, pleasantest, least affected account of Indian agricultural life, with the institutions and circumstances which rule or influence it, that we have ever seen, and the illustrations well support the text. Five of them we reproduce on our own page. The centre cut shows three of the "golahs" in which indigo-seed is stored up—little houses of mat and bamboo, thickly thatched, and resting on foundations of brick. The first of the two top Engravings represents a village market-place—obviously not after Wilkie; nor, indeed, after an Indian Wilkie: an observation which is not quite idle, because it is to be supposed that we miss many of the "points" of such scenes when not interpreted by "native" artists. The adjoining Engraving shows the ordinary hackree, or bullock-cart, of the country, in which we would rather the indigo (with which it is laden) rode than we. A sensation of distressed impatience comes over the rapid European mind at the bare look of such a tedious conveyance! The carts do, however, move, for lower down you see them unloaded or unloading—a sort of indigo harvest-home served by poor folk who have come scores of miles to get the work in the "season," like our hop-pickers. But the last Illustration we give will be the great attraction to our readers. At the first glance it puts one in mind, by its suggestion of extreme noisiness, of that steam-carriage for common roads which lays down its own rails as it goes along (and, in truth, it makes about as much "clack," or more), and then of a piece of backbone. But the fact is it is a Chinese pump in work, and speaks for itself as being a compound of the treadwheel, for motive power, and the dredging-machine, for raising the water. This preposterous-looking contrivance, when well worked by a full complement of six men, can deliver over 11,136 gallons of water in an hour. The purpose for which it is now being worked is that of filling the reservoir for the supply of the vat in which the indigo has to be "steeped."

The consequence of the familiar point of view from which this book is all written is, that it is full of pretty, lifelike detail, with plenty of suggestion. There is a discussion between a Hindoo husband and his wife upon domestic economy, which, omitting such passages as that in which the gentleman tells the lady she is expiating, in the trouble she endures with the children, her sins in a former state of existence, might almost have taken place over here. There are also lifelike portraits of Ram Chunder, Roy Gomastah, and Hurrischunder Mookerjee Gomastah, whose acquaintance we are happy to make in this remote fashion, which saves the introducer the trouble of pronouncing their names to us.

"Rural Life in Bengal" is a picture-book which really fulfils its title, and the intelligence and good feeling of the author are seen in every page.

Reminiscences of the late Thomas Assheton Smith; or, the Pursuits of an English Country Gentleman. By Sir JOHN E. EARDLEY-WILMOT, Bart. Murray.

There is just now floating about among the unathletic classes a good deal of rather silly affectation of athleticism, which is neither better nor worse, perhaps, than the affectation of intellectualism which it has displaced. But certainly muscularity has, on the whole, a fine time of it when clergymen of genius preach it up as a necessary alternative, and something more, when our leading weekly journal turns judicious bottleholder to the Benicia Boy, without, we presume, losing a subscriber or a reader, and the House of Commons greets the idea of

"putting down" the national match with uproarious laughter. And the "cause" of muscular virtue will assuredly not lose by the publication of these memoirs of a fine old English gentleman, who was born with the view-halloo in his mouth as well as a silver spoon. We like Mr. Smith amazingly, and, as illustrating the quite unconventional forms that goodness often takes, his career is well worthy of the attention of the small tea-party interest in general.

Descended from the feudal lords of Assheton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, on the male side, and coming of Welsh parentage on the other, Mr. Smith was born in the early autumn of 1776, and died in the autumn of 1858, after a life of healthy Berserk activity such as we seldom hear of. When a child he was of an extraordinarily resolute temper, and upon being, as he thought, wrongfully, flogged by his father, at four years old, he made up his mind "never again to do what he was told." The young Spartan went to Eton, where he distinguished himself with the oar and cricket-bat, and had a drawn fisticuff fight

probably have preferred a record of that fact upon his tombstone (after the fashion, say, of "Sartor Resartus") to any other epitaph, will be surprised to hear that this man assumed to have discovered "the wave principle" in shipbuilding, and that his claim, in spite of the superior claims of Mr. J. Scott Russell, cannot be disallowed. But it may be still more interesting to some people to learn that Mr. Smith had a similar and unchallenged claim with respect to the use of gun-boats. We abbreviate a passage about

THE FOX-HUNTER AND THE IRON DUKE.

Some years ago, when the Duke of Wellington was staying at Tedworth, Mr. Smith communicated to the great Captain his notions respecting gun-boats. The Duke listened, as he always did, with attention to the squire's remarks, but gave no opinion at the time. Next morning as they were both walking on the terrace the Duke said, "Smith, I have been thinking that there is a good deal in what you said last night about those gun-boats, and I should advise your writing to the First Lord of the Admiralty," then Lord —, which

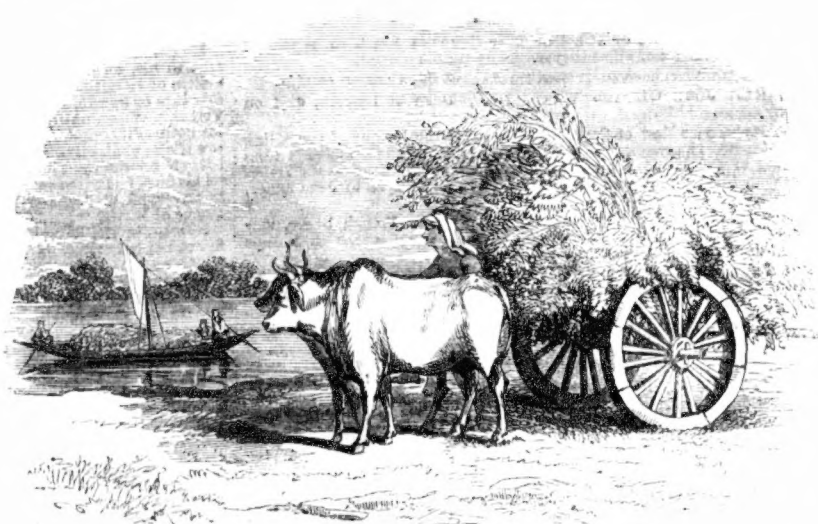
Mr. Smith accordingly did, but received no answer. Some time after he met the First Lord, and asked him, in the course of conversation, if he had received his letter. The First Lord replied that he had, but that the Admiralty could not pay attention to all the recommendations made to them. Upon this Mr. Smith took off his hat, and, turning away with a stately bow, observed, "What his Grace the Duke of Wellington has considered worthy of attention I think your Lordship might at least have condescended to notice."

The whirligig of time, however, brought about the only revenge a manly mind like Mr. Smith's could wish for—the appreciation of the gun-boat as an instrument of warfare under certain conditions. The Duke used to say that Smith would have made a first-rate cavalry general, and perhaps he might; but it seems to us that he wanted the power of selecting objects to aim at, though indomitable in pursuit. Certainly he had energy, endurance, and physical resource enough for anything. Napoleon (the Great) entered into conversation with him as *le premier chasseur d'Angleterre*; but he might have been "first" in many lines in which courage, hardness, and mere ingenuity, added to other ordinary intellectual qualities, would have commanded the premiership. Among his tenantry he did a great deal of good, making allotments, and building churches, chapels, and schools. He is said to have been very fond of Shakespeare, of pious habits, though no "saint" or set moralist, and kind of heart, though hot of head and hard of hand. He married, happily, at fifty, and, when he died, left all his large property to his wife.

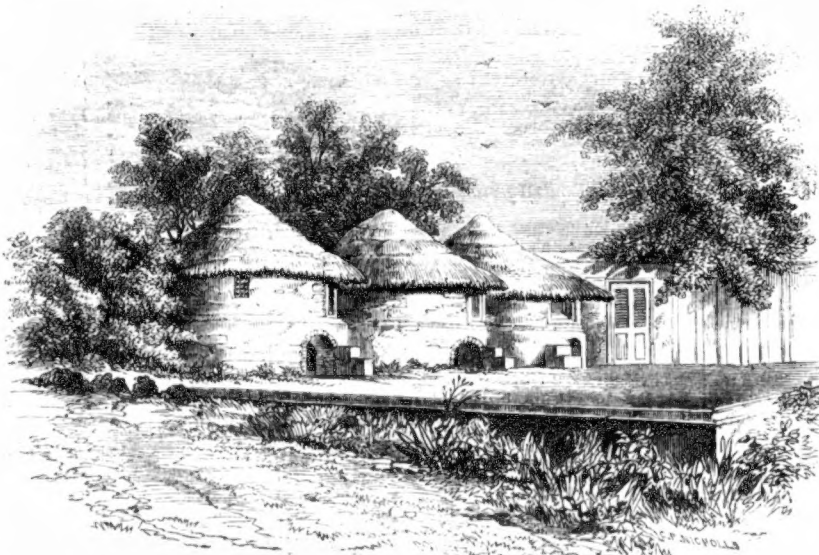
We are not going off into muscular-Christian raptures about Mr. Smith's character. It is a very intelligible one, and has a unity of merit about it which defies criticism from the "moral-usefulness" point of view. Let it pass for what it is, with a willing recognition of its fine old English excellences. But we have already hinted at what we think its obvious (and very serious) intellectual limitation, and cannot echo the cry that such a man was equal to anything in the active conduct of the world's affairs. It is a great pity, and spoils half the praise men give each other, that they do not know when to stop; as it is that so much false enthusiasm should exist to discredit the true.

The Autobiography of Leigh Hunt. A New Edition, Revised by the Author; with further Revision, and an Introduction, by his Eldest Son. With a Portrait. Smith, Elder, and Co.

To pass over the already out-worn topics in relation to this book, we may begin by saying that, reading the autobiography itself in connection with the introduction, we get a curious picture of a man in whom a congenitally-jaundiced constitution, a positively morbid conscientiousness, a light, tender fancy, and (what would naturally be associated with these)



CART OF INDIGO, BENGAL.

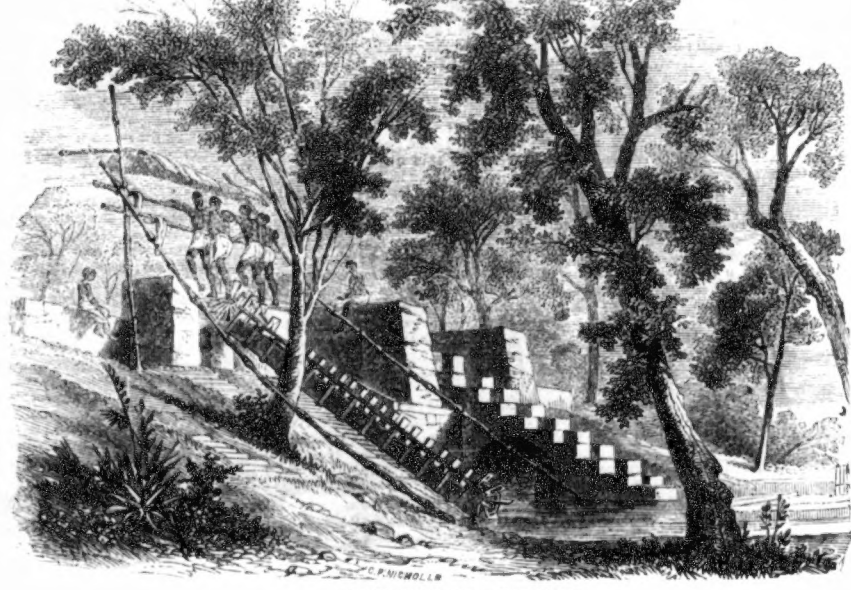


INDIGO-SEED GOLAHS.

with "gay Jack Musters," who will be remembered as Lord Byron's successful competitor for Mary Chaworth. At Oxford, whither he went afterwards, he made a reputation as the first horseman of his day, and was well known as a formidable shot and billiard-player. How he made short work of the Hampshire forest-land on his estate at Tedworth, and turned the country into a hunting-ground in spite of all opposition, with good results on every hand; how he kept up his mastership in the field with, no doubt, more tyranny than is set down, but, on the whole, with a not ill-natured despotism; how he considered that knowing how to "fall" skilfully was an essential part of the huntsman's business, and hardly ever hunted without himself making a scientific tumble over his horse's head for fun; how he "represented" Andover in Parliament up to the days of Reform; how he yachted, and how he managed his estates carefully, bountifully, and successfully;—all this is written in Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot's book, and is very pleasant to know. But the "general reader," who hears that Mr. Smith, with his own firm fingers, and with one identical knife, cut off in his mortal time one thousand and five hundred fox tails, and would



BRINGING THE INDIGO IN CARTS, UNLOADING, ETC.



CHINESE PUMP WORKING.

a tendency to look at everything subjectively, and an imperfect grasp of facts, produced a type of character whose very efficiency strongly resembled inefficiency, whose conscientiousness often passed for levity, and whose habits of partially-enforced abstinence and self-denial involuntarily indemnified themselves by simulating a refined voluptuousness. It was too much to expect that, in the hurry and clash of life, such a character should be accurately judged, even by associates; it is too much to expect that, even now, and with the help so liberally afforded by this volume, it will be fairly appreciated by the world at large. But it does not matter. Every tub — and, since the day when

The Mountain and the Squirrel
Had a quarrel,

to doom's-day itself, man is unjust, and God is just, and whatsoever a man is and does is, as Mr. Carlyle puts it, "with very great exactness, added to the eternities."

There is another word to be said. We have utterly failed to discover in these memoirs, as revised, any of that reactionary and recantatory tone which some contemporaries fancy they have seen. With the bulk of the matter we have been familiar, down to minute verbal recollection of it, for many years—a great portion of it having been printed in those "Recollections of Lord Byron and Some of His Contemporaries" which are "a thing of the past." Yet we can discover no "concession" here, and the only toning-down we notice is in the anecdote about the boy that didn't mind his stops, and the references to Voltaire. Nor, if these were "recantations," would it serve the ends of fair discussion of principles. What do the recantations of the unfortunate, or of those who have had a battle all their days, go for? For as much as confessions extorted on the rack, and no more. Every man who cultivates an independent conscience the world worries up and down his life till he and his are visibly wretched, and then it exclaims, "See how badly the system works which these people seek to introduce!" And when, at point to die, he says, "Yes, I have had sad, weary times, and perhaps I have been too violently aggressive," the same world says, "He recants! We have broken him in! Let us go and do likewise with some other eccentric!" But Leigh Hunt never recanted; and if he was all his life what he has been superciliously called, "a grown-up baby," we never heard that the Kingdom of Heaven is shut even to babies grown up, though it certainly will be to some who think themselves too big and too wise for a rattle.

GENERAL LOPEZ.

GENERAL DON FRANCISCO SOLANO LOPEZ, whose mediation has lately removed the difficulties that existed between the Argentine Confederation and Buenos Ayres, is the eldest son of the President of the Republic of Paraguay. Only thirty-four years of age, he has acquired the reputation of an able diplomatist, an experienced general, and a clever administrator. He has created an army, commanded it in the field, and has defended the interests of his country in numerous negotiations with foreign Powers. At the death of the Dictator, the despotic Francia, when the Paraguayan Congress placed the presidency in the hands of Lopez, young Solano solicited and obtained permission of his father to devote himself to the career of arms. In 1845 the President declared war against Rosas, the Dictator of Buenos Ayres, and sent a body of troops to join the Correntine army commanded by General Paz. The command of the Paraguayan corps was intrusted to Francisco Solano, who, barely twenty years old, found himself a General in the field. In 1849 hostilities were again resumed against Rosas, and Solano, at the head of his soldiers, penetrated into the territory which separates Parana from Uruguay, overcoming all opposition. He returned to Paraguay after a successful campaign of three months' duration.

The services which he has rendered to his country in the character of a diplomatist are possibly of greater import than his achievements in the field. He made his debut in Europe, where he was sent by his father, in 1850, to exchange with various Governments the ratification of the commercial treaties concluded at Assumption. In the capacity of Plenipotentiary he visited Paris, Vienna, London, Rome, and Turin.



PORTRAIT OF GENERAL LOPEZ.

In the following year he returned to Paraguay, having brought to a successful issue the negotiations intrusted to him. The opportunities of travel were not lost upon him, for he took back many practical ideas wherewith to enrich his country.

In 1857 the Paraguayan Congress, on the refusal of Lopez to accept his re-election, nominated Solano President of the Republic; but this great honour the latter from motives of honesty declined, and a new vote overcame the resistance of his father. A Ministry was organised, and Solano took his seat in the Cabinet as Minister of War and Marine. He was the means of arranging serious difficulties which had arisen between the Brazils and Paraguay, and he seconded his father in an extremely delicate negotiation with the Government of the United States. The Americans supported their Minister with a squadron, and Paraguay, not to be intimidated, prepared to resist, and its firm attitude contributed to a peaceful arrangement of the difference.

Finally, General Lopez has recently inaugurated at Buenos Ayres an entirely new policy to the South American Republics. Instead of resorting to arms, mediation is brought to settle disputes; instead of a victory, a treaty now regulates the relations with foreign Powers.

Lopez has lately come into notoriety again owing to the steamer on board of which he was proceeding to Paraguay from Buenos Ayres being arrested and turned back by the British Squadron.

FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

THE spring season is already heralded by the light materials and gay colours of the bonnets just completed in the most approved magasins des modes. One of the newest has a front of white tulle, bordered with green velvet of a very light hue. The crown is of green velvet, with falls of white lace. At each side there are tufts of primroses. The under-trimming consists of ruffles of white tulle and bouquets of primroses. The strings are of very broad green ribbon. Another bonnet, made by the same hands as that just described, has a foundation of white tulle, covered with blonde tulle. On one side there is a white ostrich feather, twisted spirally. The under-trimming is a wreath of white and pink roses.

Velvet and gold are the materials chiefly employed for evening headdresses. A greatly-admired coiffure has been formed of a torsade of red velvet and gold, finished on one side with rich gold tassels. At the back of the head a bouquet of white roses is fixed by a gold arrow. Another elegant headdress consists of a traverse of blue velvet, intermingled with gold rings. At the back of the head a large bouquet of roses and long lappets of white blonde.

The carnival ball given in Paris by the Prefet of the Seine was exceedingly brilliant. The dresses of the ladies were of the richest and most varied characters. The Baroness de V— wore a dress which attracted no little attention from its singularity. The appearance of a robe of salmon-coloured tulle was certainly something astounding, considering how many years that colour has been ranked among the *vieilles* of fashion. However, the dress of the Baroness was unquestionably most elegant. At the extreme edge of the skirt there was a very broad ruche, above which a series of small bouillones ascended nearly to the waist. On one side of the skirt there was a long wreath of large pansies exquisitely made in velvet, and intermingled with their rich foliage. At the same ball the dress of a young English lady of rank was greatly admired. It was of blue satin, trimmed with ruffles and bouillones of blue tulle. Over this dress was a tunic of blue tulle, embroidered with silver, and ornamented with bouquets of white roses. Headdress of white roses and pearls.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1.—Robe of dark fuchsia-coloured satin. The corsage is low and of the shape called *la Princesse*. The berthe is trimmed with point d'Alençon. The short sleeves are composed of one double bouillon of fuchsia satin, surmounting two puffs of white tulle. The skirt of the dress is trimmed with bows of ribbon set on flat, and to each bow is attached a long loop of ribbon, fixed to the skirt of the dress in the manner shown in our Engraving. The ribbon should be of a darker shade than the material of the dress. Headdress of black lace, trimmed with damask roses.

Fig. 2.—Robe of black velvet, with corsage à la Grecque. The sleeves, which are very short, and without fullness, are finished at the ends by a broad band of gold. Over these short sleeves are loose odalisque sleeves of white tulle figured with gold. The headdress is a chapeau petit bord, trimmed with rich torsades and tassels of gold.

Fig. 3. *Opera Dress*.—Robe of isly-green satin. Cloak of white satin, edged with a band of plush, striped in white and cerise colour. The round hood is edged with the same trimming. Headdress, a wreath of small white flowers, with a long spray of green foliage hanging over the back of the neck.

Fig. 4.—Dress of pekin, in stripes of white and violet. The skirt has one broad bias flounce, headed by a ruche of violet silk with pinked edges. Ceinture of violet silk, with long ends, edged with ruching. The sleeves are formed of large puffs and a frill edged with ruching, below which are bouillones of white tulle. The corsage is square in front, and trimmed all round with a ruche of violet silk. The headdress is a wreath of Parma violets, shaded in various tints, with a bouquet of roses in the centre.



FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. VINCENT WALLACE's long-expected opera of "Lurline" was produced last week with the greatest success. The first night the overture and some half-dozen of the songs were encored, the principal singers had to appear on the stage at the end of each act, and three special calls were made for the composer. Indeed, Mr. Wallace may be congratulated on having produced a work of very high merit, and one which will long find favour with the public, to judge by the increasing success with which it has been received since the evening of its production. Whatever position may be assigned to "Lurline" among the works of contemporary composers it is certainly the best opera Mr. Wallace has written, and it combines artistic qualities with the elements of popularity in a more remarkable degree than any similar production by an English musician.

As usual, Mr. Wallace has had to treat a miserable libretto. Most of our composers have had their operatic books supplied to them by Mr. Bunn or Mr. Fitzball; and it always appeared to us that nothing could be worse than Mr. Bunn's libretti till we met with one of Mr. Fitzball's, and then that nothing could be worse than Mr. Fitzball's till we again met with one of Mr. Bunn's. Mr. Fitzball is the poet of "Lurline," and a nice poem he has made of it! In the beautiful German legend on which the opera is founded there are only two characters—the nymph of the whirlpool and her knight. Mr. Fitzball has had to invent a number of other personages, and these he has found among the relatives and connections of Rudolph the knight, and of Lurline the water spirit. Rudolph (Mr. Harrison) has a betrothed named Ghiva (Miss Pilling), and Ghiva has a father named Baron Irvelfels (Mr. Honey). The *entourage* of Lurline is of the strangest kind. She appears never to have had a mother (for spirits do not die), but her paternal parent is a wretched old man, named Rhineberg (Mr. Santley), who has the costume of a river-god and the sentiments of a "heavy father" in a domestic drama. Lurline has, moreover, a cortege of nymphs, in green dresses, who sing and dance in her honour, and a sort of male duenna, in the shape of a gnome, who answers to the name of Zebeck, but is usually addressed as a "dwarfish traitor" by Rhineberg, though his impersonator (Mr. Corri) stands six feet high. This gnome has a number of attendant gnomes, who live quite comfortably at the bottom of the Rhine; and here Mr. Fitzball proves that, after all the legendary and supernatural pieces he has produced, he has not even the most elementary knowledge of the mythology of ancient and mediæval Europe. Mr. Fitzball, if any one, ought to know that gnomes live in the earth, as sylphs live in the air and mermaids in the sea, and that a mole in an aquarium would not be a more absurd object than are the gnomes living at the bottom of the Rhine to every one who knows what part those very earthy beings play in the ancient German and Slavonian legends. Mr. Fitzball, like all dull writers who fancy themselves poets, is a great believer in lofty diction, and evidently believes that there is one language for verse and another for prose. Thus, the opera begins with the following magnificent lines for Rhineberg, which, as they are of unequal length, and each begins with a capital letter, are, of course, intended for "poetry":—

All is silent save the murmur
Of the lone waves and the nightingale
That in sadness to the moonbeam
Telleth her love-lorn tale.
In vnder blue serene the stars above
Hold sentinel, &c.

We are told that the river-king, Lurline, and the gnomes generally live in a cavern, and gnome *primus* is seen "peeping through a chasm of the rocks above," after which he "vanishes," then "rapidly emerges from a bed of water-lilies," and crouches at the feet of the king, who thereupon "smites" the gnome and inquires why Lurline has left her "coral cave," and commands him to wake her "sluggish maidens" from their "shells of opal." Immediately afterwards the cavern is described as Rhineberg's "silvery home," and is further spoken of as "the halls of liquid crystal." We have little more to say about Mr. Fitzball's libretto, except that the manner in which the unfortunate gnome is "smitten, seized," and belaboured in every shape and way, to say nothing of the fearful imprecations directed against him, is positively shameful, and will not add to the reputation of Mr. Fitzball, who hitherto has generally had credit for a good heart. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the gnome is very intractable, and that his favourite vice of drinking is constantly leading him into scrapes from which the venerable Rhineberg suffers.

In the overture Mr. Wallace has produced a work which is very beautiful and, to some extent, characteristic. The principal motives of the overture are from Lurline's songs, the melodious refrain of her romance "The Night Winds" being introduced and developed with particularly happy effect. The *Morning Post* of Monday, February 27, in an excellent article on "Lurline," points out that with the exception the few introductory bars, "in which the succession of pretty harmonies tastefully distributed amongst the soft wind instruments may be supposed to illustrate the languidly voluptuous life of naiads, whose life passes chiefly in floating on the sea in picturesque attitudes, there is really nothing of that dreamy vagueness or ideality which the subject would seem to require;" but that, on the contrary, "the entire composition is divided between the perfectly sensuous and most positive expression of passionate love and impetuous chivalry, the former pointing to Lurline, the latter to Count Rudolph." The writer has previously spoken of the difficulty, amounting almost to impossibility, of finding an original expression of the wild and wonderful in music after what has been done by Weber in his "Freischütz" and "Oberon," Mendelssohn, in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Spohr, in "Faust," Meyerbeer, in "Robert le Diable," Berlioz, in his symphonies; and Mozart, in the statue scene of "Don Giovanni"—"strange, weird harmonies, curiously-broken rhythm, expressed by the mysterious, low tones of the clarinet, violas, bassoons or brass instruments, odd taps upon the drum, &c., for the diabolical; soft, mellifluous breathings on the flutes, oboes, and clarinets, divided violins, fiddling a *tremolo*, perhaps *con sordini*, in the highest regions of the scale, or executing light, rapid, fantastic passages, whilst the strings of harps are swept airily from end to end for the fairylike. Are not these the well-known and approved recipes for making music of the supernatural order? recipes the fundamental and essential ideas of which, discovered by Weber, Mendelssohn, and Berlioz, have been adopted more or less by every composer of the day who has written upon similar subjects. Mr. Fitzball, therefore, set his colleague no easy task in placing him in the world of spirits, with the understood proviso that he should produce something quite new and original; but Mr. Wallace, fully understanding the difficulty of his position, has managed to escape from it by being as little spiritual as possible. The critic adds that the construction of the overture is quite symmetrical and orthodox, that one theme is "charming," that another is "eloquent," and "carried out to the end with all the spirit and fire that marked its commencement," and that, as a whole, the overture "deserves very high praise."

We must now call attention, as briefly as possible, to the most remarkable pieces in the opera. Lurline's first air, "Flow on, O silver Rhine!"—which is afterwards introduced whenever Lurline enters or when it is desirable to suggest her presence—is what is vulgarly called the "gem" of the opera. The romance entitled "The Night Winds," which follows, is of a higher character, and is one of the most beautiful things of the kind ever written. Its subject is the legend of the Lurlei whirlpool, and the first portion of the air in the minor is charmingly simple and expressive. In the first act there is also a chorus in polacca measure, "Drain the cup of pleasure," which is very effective, and which is encored every night, and a barcarolle for the tenor, "Our barque in moonlight," which is by far the best of Mr. Harrison's solos.

In the second act there are no less than three songs after the "popular-ballad" model:—"Sweet form, that on my dreamy gaze," for the tenor; "Gentle troubadour," for the contralto; and "A Father's love," for the venerable Rhineberg. The troubadour song and "A Father's love" are always encored; but they are quite out of place in

an opera on the subject of "Lurline." The other most noticeable pieces in this act are two drinking-songs, for Lurline and the gnome, of which the former is commonplace, the latter original and strikingly grotesque; a beautiful chorus or dirge, "Peace to the memory;" and the finale to the act.

In act 3 Lurline's scena includes a very graceful andante, which Miss Pyne sings with exquisite tenderness "Where art thou, Rudolph?" a prayer, "Oh, thou to whom," and a very agitated allegro, "As the bounding barque." The ballads in this act for the tenor and baritone are not only out of place, but in themselves uninteresting. There is, however, an unaccompanied quartet, "Through the world," which is thoroughly beautiful, and which is one of the most generally admired pieces of the opera.

The execution of the opera is highly creditable to the artists, and, on the whole, no operatic work has ever been produced on the English stage with so much success as "Lurline."

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—The trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, still in its narrow cradle, a private house in Great George-street, Westminster, have just purchased the Fraser Tytler portrait of Mary Queen of Scots. It appears, from circumstantial evidence, to have been painted in 1560, during Mary's short reign as Queen of France. Its late owner, well known by his history of Scotland, considered it to have been identical with a picture which Mary is said to have dispatched to Elizabeth, but which is no longer traceable in the Royal collections, if indeed it ever reached its destination. The picture now acquired for the nation is a very remarkable one, whether for portraiture, costume, or as a genuine painting of the period. Among the recent accessions to the gallery we find the following portraits:—David Garrick, by R. E. Pine; Warren Hastings, by Tilly Kettle; John Smeaton; James Watt; Dr. Erasmus Darwin, by Wright; of Derby; the elder Brunel; Archbishop Tillotson, by Mrs. Beale; Huntington, the preacher, "S.S.," Sir William Herschel, astronomer to King George III., by Abbot, best known as the painter of Lord Nelson; John Howard, the philanthropist—poor, but authentic; the Right Hon. Thomas Winnington—a beautiful enamel, by Zincke, presented by his descendant, the member for Bewdley; Sir Francis Chantrey—a fine picture, by Phillips, the gift of Lady Chantrey; and James, seventh Earl of Derby, and Matt. Prior, the poet, both pictures of considerable importance, presented by Lord Derby. The gallery continues to be open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays, after twelve o'clock.

THE EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.—Mr. Cowper, Chief Commissioner of Works, was waited on by a deputation from Chelsea, who urged on him the propriety of going on with the embankment of the Thames. A balance of £38,000 of the sum voted by Parliament for carrying out the undertaking still remained, but the sum was not sufficient to complete the works. Mr. Cowper said he was of opinion that the improvements would be very beneficial for the health and recreation of the metropolis. The reason why the embankment had not been carried out was that the Act of Parliament expressly prohibited the Commissioners from executing the works unless the landowners, whose property would be improved by the alteration, would contribute towards the expenses of the works. They had not done so with that liberality which might have been expected; the result was that the progress of the works had been stopped. The sum of £38,150 referred to was not available for it, as it was a rule of Parliament that when a sum of money had been voted by them and not appropriated for three years it was transferred to the Exchequer and made use of for the general purposes of the country. There was but slight hope that any steps could be taken this year, but he would recommend them to wait for a more convenient time, and then ask for a sum of money sufficient to carry out the undertaking in a satisfactory manner. The deputation, having thanked Mr. Cowper, then withdrew.

THE WRECK OF THE "LUNA."—The reported loss of the American ship *Luna*, with upwards of 100 lives, on the rocks off Barfleur, is confirmed. The loss took place about midday on Sunday week. For hours previously the ill-fated ship was seen off the coast struggling with a gale of wind from the N.W., till at length she appeared to become unmanageable, and was driven on to the rocks about 200 fathoms from the shore, where she speedily became a total wreck. Her perilous position was observed by the people on shore long before she struck, but it was utterly impossible to launch a boat through the surf to go to the assistance of the ship and her living freight. Two persons only reached the shore alive, and one of them died almost immediately afterwards. The survivor, an Italian named Clement, was unable to give any satisfactory details of the loss of the ship for two or three days afterwards, owing to his greatly-exhausted condition. He stated that the ship sailed from Havre on the previous Friday, and that there were on board seventy-five passengers, of whom forty-seven were men, twenty-seven women, and one child. The crew mustered twenty-six hands, besides a French cook for the passengers. Her cargo was of a general description.

BRITISH SHIPPING.—A petition to the House of Commons was in course of signature at Liverpool on Saturday, setting forth that since the repeal of the Navigation Laws British shipping has been exposed to the unrestricted competition of all foreign nations. That the petitioners were led to expect that other nations would have reciprocated the great advantages conferred on them by the legislation of this country. That the petitioners observe with great disappointment that the treaty with France, now before your honourable House, while seeking to extend the principles of free trade, overlooks the claims of the shipowners of this country to share in the important advantages secured to other commercial interests. That Art. 3, which expressly stipulates for the retention of differential duties on goods in favour of French shipping, makes the treaty, which purports to be simply one of commerce between England and France, into one of navigation also, exclusively in favour of France. As one instance of the disadvantages under which British shipowners now labour, the petitioners mention that British shipping is virtually excluded from carrying cotton between America and France. And by a recent French official communication it appears that, while the duties on cotton and cotton wool are to be repealed when imported into France in French or American ships direct, a differential duty is to be levied on the above produce if imported into France from any port in Great Britain, amounting to a prohibition of the employment of British shipping in the importation of cotton and cotton wool into France. The petitioners therefore humbly pray that the House will withhold its assent to Art. 3 in the treaty until British shipowners are placed as nearly as possible on the same footing in the ports of France as French ships are now placed in the ports of this country.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—On Sunday the services of this place of worship assumed a new phase. The present week being the season of Lent, a considerable alteration had been made in the altar. The drapery, in fact, was made purple, with a large white cross in the centre. This cross was changed, so far as the colour was concerned, on different evenings. At one time it was white, at another time it was red. It appears, however, that the proceedings had given offence to some parties in the parish, and that some one in consequence had written to the Bishop. The result of that application was the following letter, received by Mr. Thompson from the Bishop on the evening of Saturday last:—"I have received a letter informing me of certain changes in the arrangement of the parish church. Finding that such additions to the ordinary arrangement of our parish churches excite the parishioners, I require you before the service of to-morrow to go to the church along with the clergyman in charge, and, if it appears to you that ornaments thus exhibited are such as are likely to excite angry feelings, quietly remove the same." The letter was dated on Saturday last, and was delivered to the churchwarden, Mr. Thompson, on the evening of that day. In consequence, at ten o'clock on Sunday morning, Mr. Thompson, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Dove, the clergyman in charge, and the beadle of the church, did remove the objectionable formula from the altar, and the consequence was that during the morning service the church displayed only its bare walls, there being none of the usual ornaments to be seen. The morning service passed off with little interruption, although a person named French was apprehended on the charge of saying the responses irreverently or out of time. There was no Litany service in the afternoon, and in the interval between the morning service and that of the lecture the drapery about the altar was replaced; not of the same character as that which had been used during the week, but of a similar description to that which usually hangs about the chancel. In the afternoon the congregation was numerous, and the sermon was listened to with great attention. The service was over by about a quarter to five o'clock, but after it was so the people did not come out of the church; about 150 of them taking possession of the church and the choristers' seats; and there they sat until the evening service commenced at seven o'clock, none of them vacating the seats to the choristers, who had to go within the altar railings. The Rev. Mr. Lowder officiated at the evening service, but there was little disturbance, upwards of 200 policemen being present.

WHEAT FROM ABROAD.—The *Echo Agricole* states that, during the years of free trade in grain, France has furnished to England a larger quantity of wheat and flour than Russia and the United States, the two countries that have always been represented as ready to inundate Western Europe with their produce.

THE WINE DUTIES.—Immediately after the passing of Mr. Gladstone's resolution on Monday night the old scale of wine duties ceased, and the new one is now in full operation. Until the 1st of January next, therefore, there will be a uniform duty of 3s. a gallon upon all foreign wines imported into this country; and after that date a graduated scale of duties ranging from 1s. per gallon upon wines containing less than 18 degrees of proof spirit, 1s. 6d. if less than 23 degrees, and 2s. if less than 40 degrees.

LAW AND CRIME.

LAST week a cause—"Kingsbury v. Graham"—was tried in the Common Pleas. The defendant was the husband of the lady formerly known as Miss Clara St. Casse, a favourite actress at the St. James's Theatre. Mr. Kingsbury, the plaintiff, is a teacher of music, and, appreciating the talents of Miss St. Casse in that young lady's juvenile days, took her as his apprentice, with a premium of £40, and on the terms of receiving half the proceeds of any professional engagement to be entered upon by her during that term. Mr. Kingsbury speculated in the young lady's talents by taking the Lyceum Theatre for one night, by which venture he lost, as he states, £60. In the first place, however, this was Mr. Kingsbury's own speculation, and therefore he can have no cause to complain if he loses by a venture proved by the result to have been unwise. Secondly, it is somewhat too bad to blame all the non-success of a theatrical season of one night upon a young lady who may have been, and indeed probably was, the most clever and winning performer of the entire company. Mr. Kingsbury next took his pupil on a provincial tour for a month, receiving during that period half her salary of £10 a week—a salary in itself sufficient to show that it was not Miss St. Casse's shortcomings that closed that short Lyceum season. Next £6 weekly was offered the young lady at the St. James's Theatre, and this was accepted. The young lady next contracted marriage with Mr. Graham, an act for which our gallant contemporary, the *Morning Star*, charmingly compares her to a tiger who having once tasted blood—is "inspired (*sic*) with a burning thirst;" for, as the tiger under the circumstances desires to repeat the enjoyment, Miss St. Casse, earning £6 per week and getting £3, desires to be married, which renders the agreeable simile complete in every respect. After the marriage her husband declined to carry out the agreement as to handing over half his wife's salary to Mr. Kingsbury. Mr. Kingsbury sued, but upon the trial of the case this portion of the plaintiff's claim was struck out, and he was allowed only a sum charged for maintenance, and under £20. Mr. Justice Willes held that the lady had been, by marriage, liberated from a contract entered into by her during her minority. Her father had, as is usual in apprenticeships, been a party to the indenture, and his Lordship practically expressed his feelings as to the nature of the contract by refusing to certify for plaintiff's costs unless the indenture were given up. With respect to the peculiar nature of this special case, we can tell nothing beyond the facts as reported. But it is, nevertheless, not unpleasant to see it laid down as a rule that a speculation in the brains of a clever child is not regarded by law as the foundation of such a contract as may render the gift of talents a curse, by subjecting their owner to a slavery to any enterprising capitalist who may see his way to trafficking in the commodity to advantage by forestalling the market. Ordinarily, an apprentice may release himself from his indentures on becoming of age. Mr. Kingsbury's bargain may have been fair enough; but if a four years' term and half earnings be admitted in principle, as one into which a minor may enter without hope of release on maturity, why not admit the term to last for life, and seven-eighths, or even more, of the earnings to be the property of any instructor, speculator, slavedealer, or whatever he may be, who may choose to bargain with a possibly needy parent for the apprenticeship or purchase of a child endowed with genius?

A case of some importance to members of building societies was decided by Vice-Chancellor Kinsler on Tuesday last. A Mr. Townsend was a member of the Kent Benefit Building Society, which, after enrolment of its rules, the managers thought fit to rename the Kent Freehold Land Society. Mr. Townsend added £20 to the amount of his paid subscriptions, and was allotted a piece of land. The society afterwards fell under the process of "winding up" in Chancery, and Mr. Townsend was called on as a contributory, although his final transaction with the society, as already described, took place in 1856, and no person is liable to contribute after having ceased to be a member for three years. The rules made before the change of name provided for the withdrawal of members after a thirty days' notice. The Vice-Chancellor held that the change in the name and object of the society went for nothing, as the directors might, had they pleased, have called the society the Royal Academy of Music, without producing any legal alteration of the rules or contributions of the society. If the society, established as a benefit building society, chose to carry on operations as a freehold land society, such operations were illegal. Mr. Townsend was therefore put upon the list of contributories.

The police have succeeded in capturing five members of a gang of burglars whose depredations have lately caused some unhappiness at the east end of the town. The custom of the fellows, whose implements of robbery were complete, including skeleton keys, files, centrebits, "jimmies," and a bludgeon, was to attack the houses of mechanics who left their homes about six in the morning to enter upon their avocations. The succeeding hour was that chosen by the scoundrels for their work. The mean burglars were accustomed, as appears by the list of articles recovered, not only to carry off every portable article of convertible value, even down to women's apparel, but even such, to them, valueless booty as books and birds in cages. A female accomplice at length gave information against the gang, who, having been examined, are remanded for further evidence. Meanwhile, the accomplice, as Queen's evidence, has been provided with an asylum out of the way of the prisoners' companions.

Owen Gallivan, aged thirty-six, retailer of fish, has got into sad trouble through putting his knife and fork to improper use. Some time since he used his fork for the purpose of extracting the eye of his wife. For this irregularity he was tried at the Central Criminal Court and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. On his release he continued to live unhappily with his wife, until, being infuriated by her a-king how he was getting on, he took his knife from his barrow and deposited it in the neck of his helpmate. For this he was again tried before the Recorder, who, after expressing some justifiable surprise at the lenity of the punishment incurred by the misuse of the fork, sentenced him for that of the knife to six years' penal servitude.

That remarkable Society for the Prevention of the Sale of Game out of Season, of which so little has been heard of late, and so little, in a creditable way, at any period whatever, has been at work again, after its own peculiar fashion. A poulterer was intrusted, as it appears, with a couple of birds, the property of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, which were delivered to him for the purpose of being plucked. The society, of which the head-quarters are at the publishing office of a contemporary bearing the appropriate name of a well-known ex-detective, happened to discover, by means of one of its paltry, spying emissaries, the two birds hanging at the back of the shop of the honest poulterer. He was thereupon summoned, and the usual "Mr. Orridge" appeared to support the shabby prosecution. The defendant was fined 1s. each for his "possession" of the birds, and was, moreover, mulcted in costs.

In the Bankruptcy Court, a few days since, Mr. Commissioner Goulburn took occasion to remark on the "increase of defaulting attorneys." He understood there were then five in the office of one official assignee; whereupon Mr. Lawrance, attorney, rejoined—"And many more on the roll."

MR. SICKLES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A Washington correspondent thus describes the appearance of Mr. Sickles in Congress:—"There is a general stir among the fairer portion of the audience as Mr. Sickles saunters quietly in, a slender figure, attired with such Parisian faultlessness of taste that he has acquired the name of the best-dressed man in the House. Dark brown hair, brushed smoothly away from his white, broad forehead; full beard and moustache, and a handsome face, all but the eyes—oh! such singular-looking eyes! As long as his back is turned he seems a perfect Adonis; but the eyes spoil all. His usual style of dress—one that makes him the envy of every dandy on Pennsylvania Avenue for its distinguished perfection—is a black dress-coat, with velvet collar, and light grey trousers, tapering down to the small, shiny boots. His hands are encased in perfectly-fitting kid gloves of some dark colour, which he constantly wears, even in his seat. This habit has given rise to a superstitious rumour that they are worn to conceal the deep blood-stains which he fancies are still crimsoning his hands. He lounges in a sort of nonchalant way upon his seat, seldom accosted by his fellow-members, and apparently, quite unaware that he is the centre for hundreds of curious eyes. He is boarding in a private family, and 'Terresa' is with him."

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